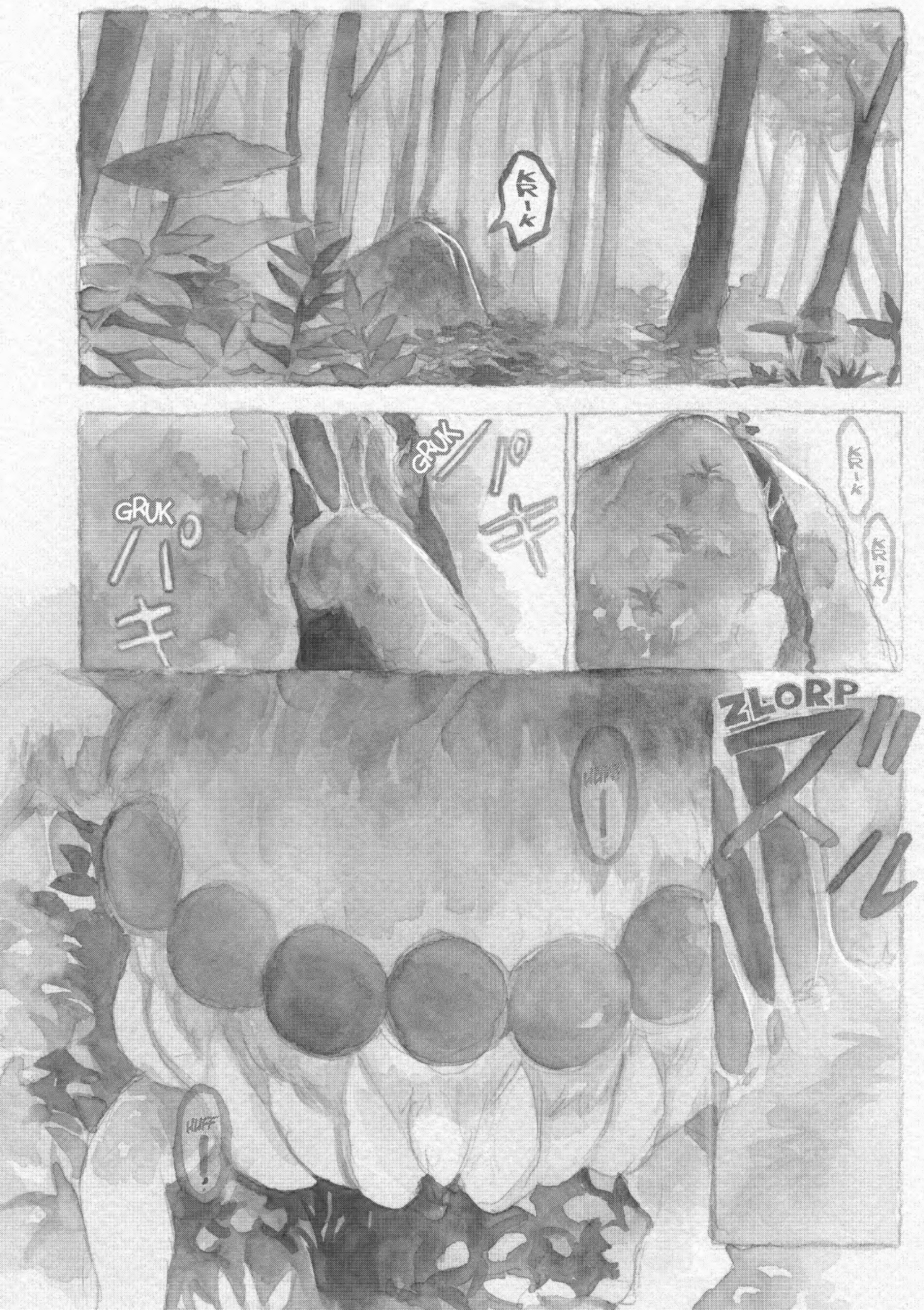
Giant Spider & Me
A Post-Apocalyptic Tale 1
story & art by
Kikori Morino

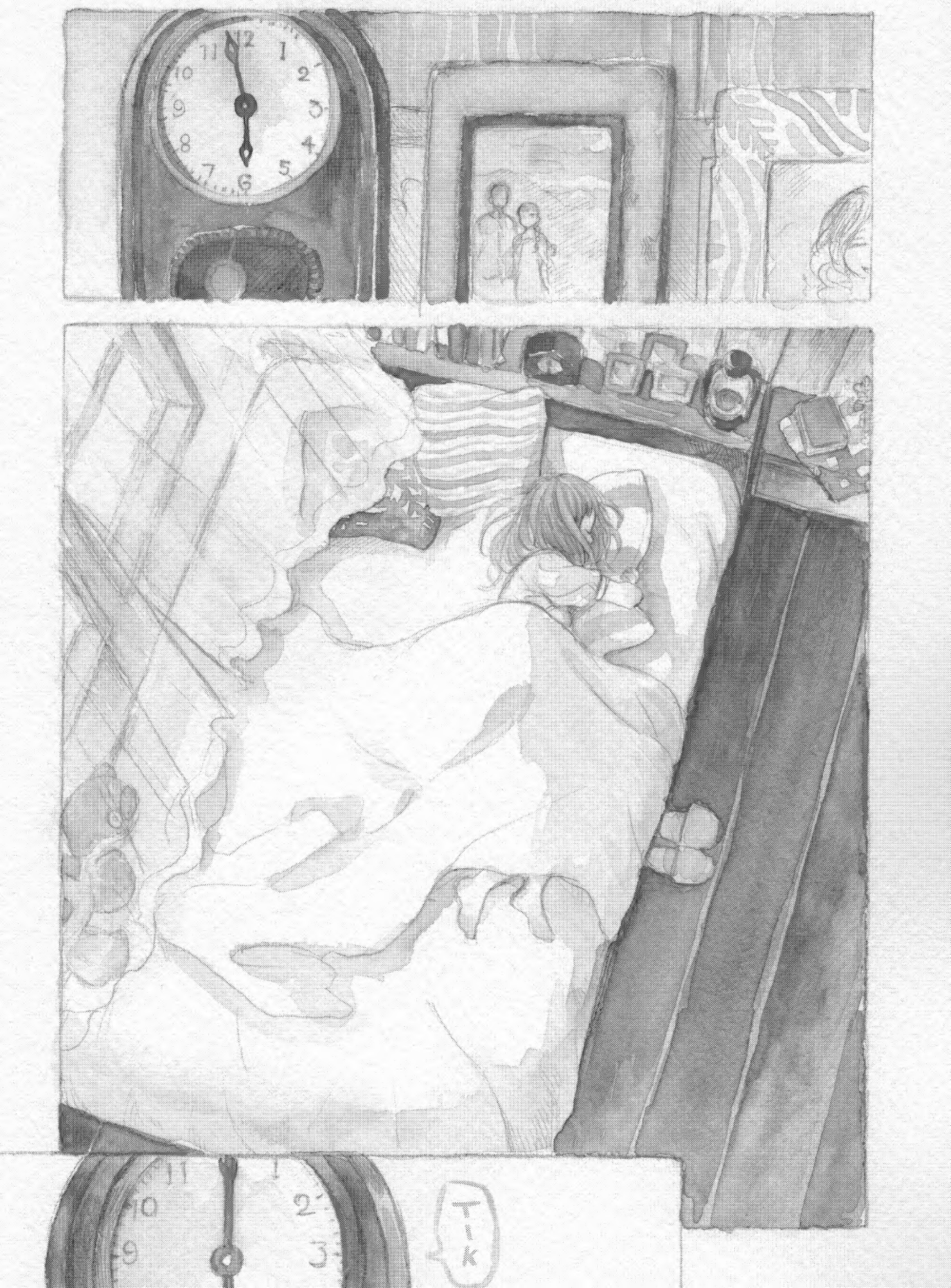
Giant Spider & Me

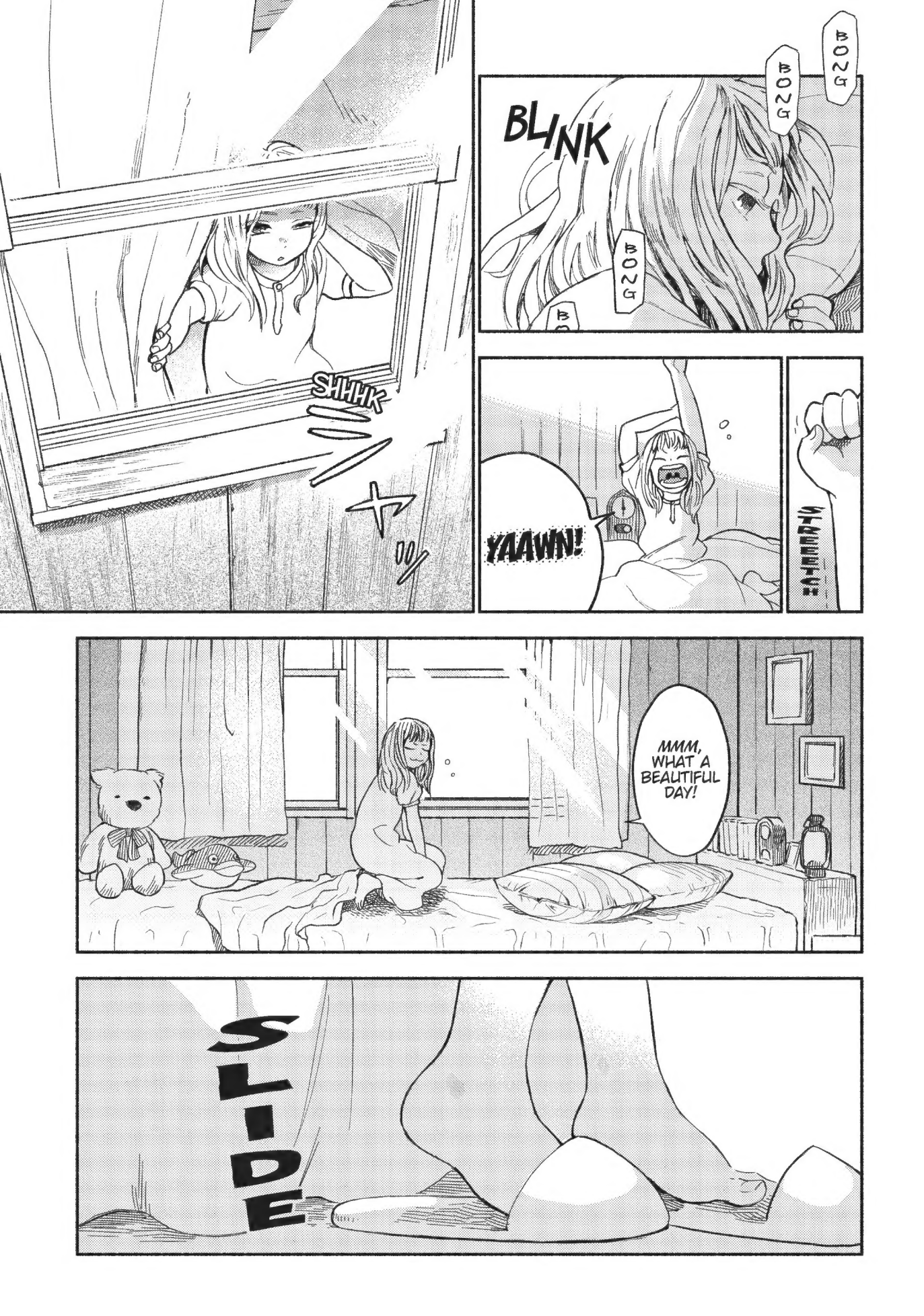
A Post-Apocalyptic Tale 1

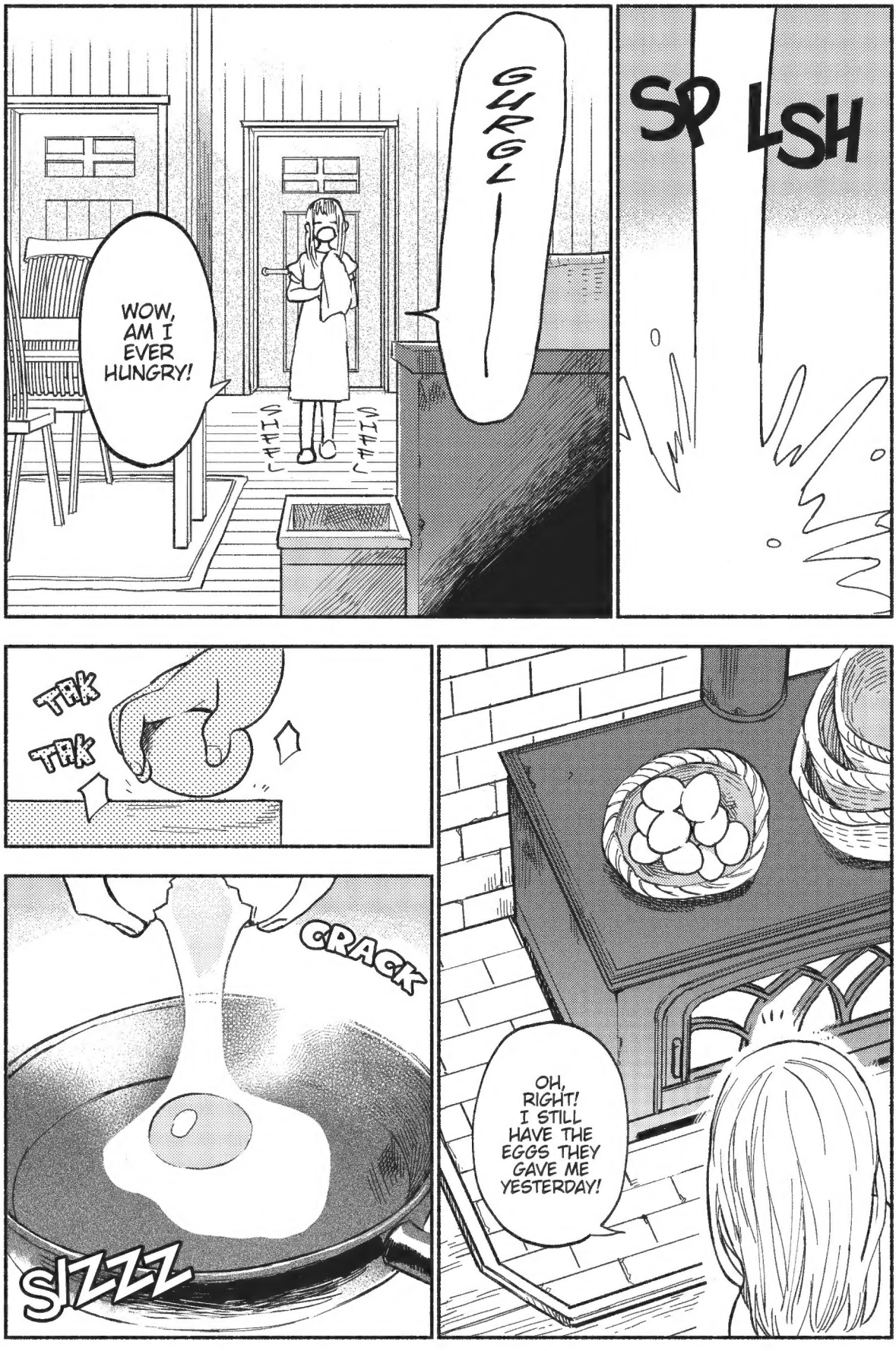
story & art by
Kikori Morino

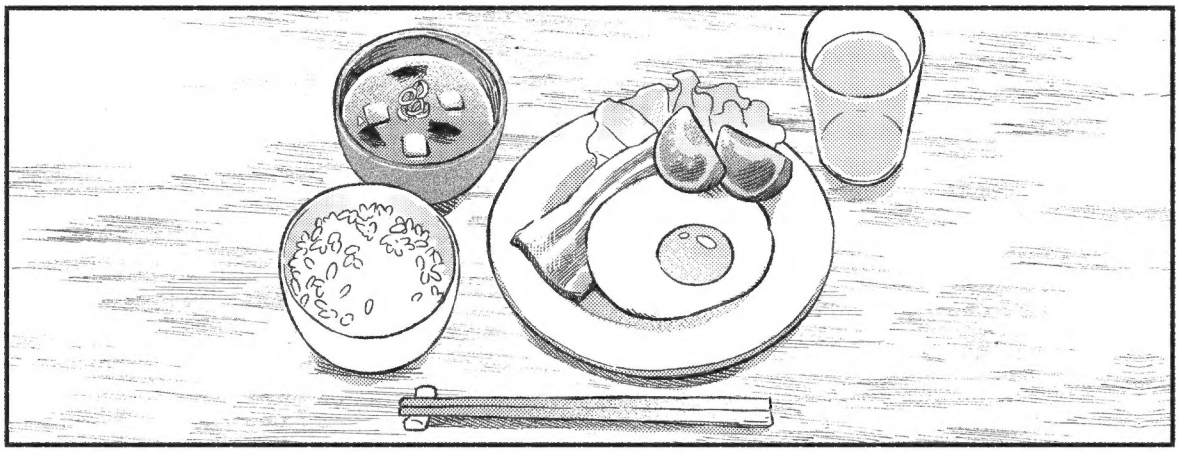

KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
GRUK
GRUK
ZLORP
HUFF
HUFF

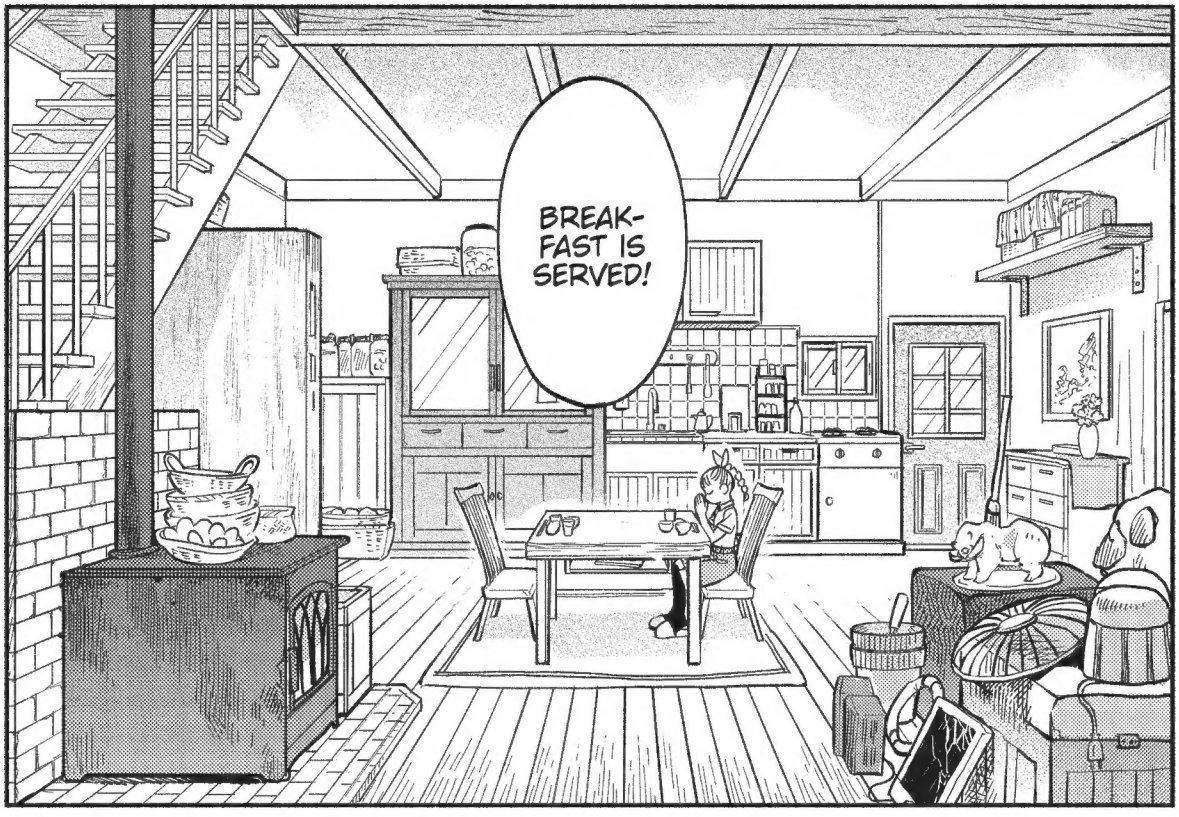
Chapter 1: Unexpected Encounters & Chewy Pumpkin Dumplings

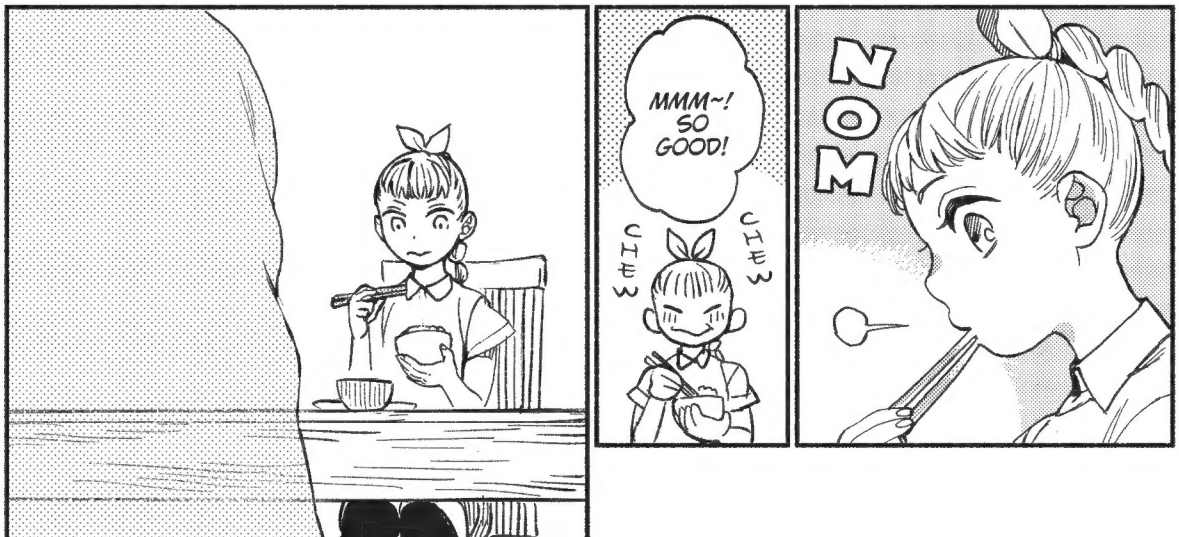

Tik

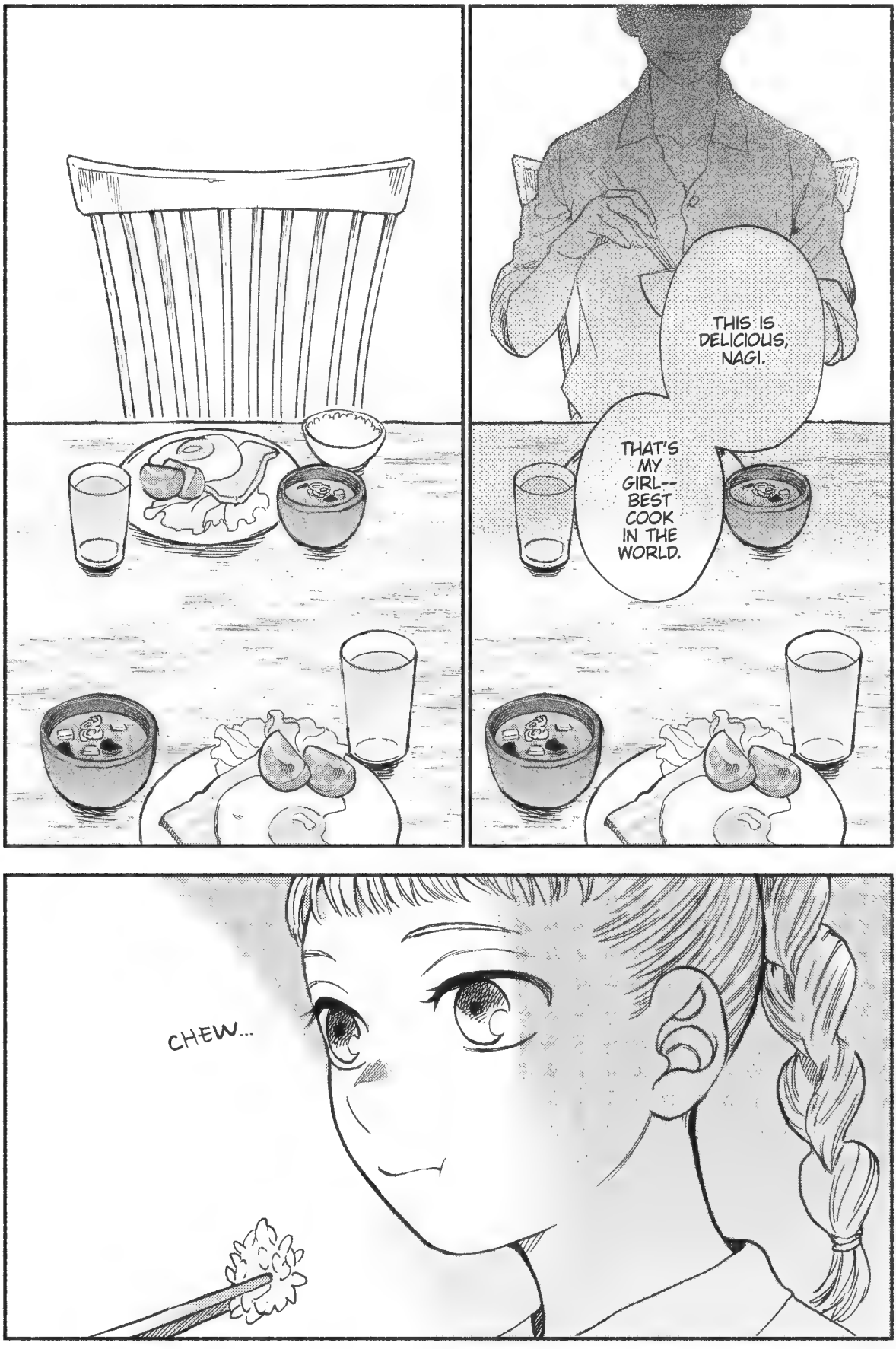

BONG
BONG
BLINK
BONG
STRETCH
YAAWN!
SHHHK
MMM, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
SLIDE

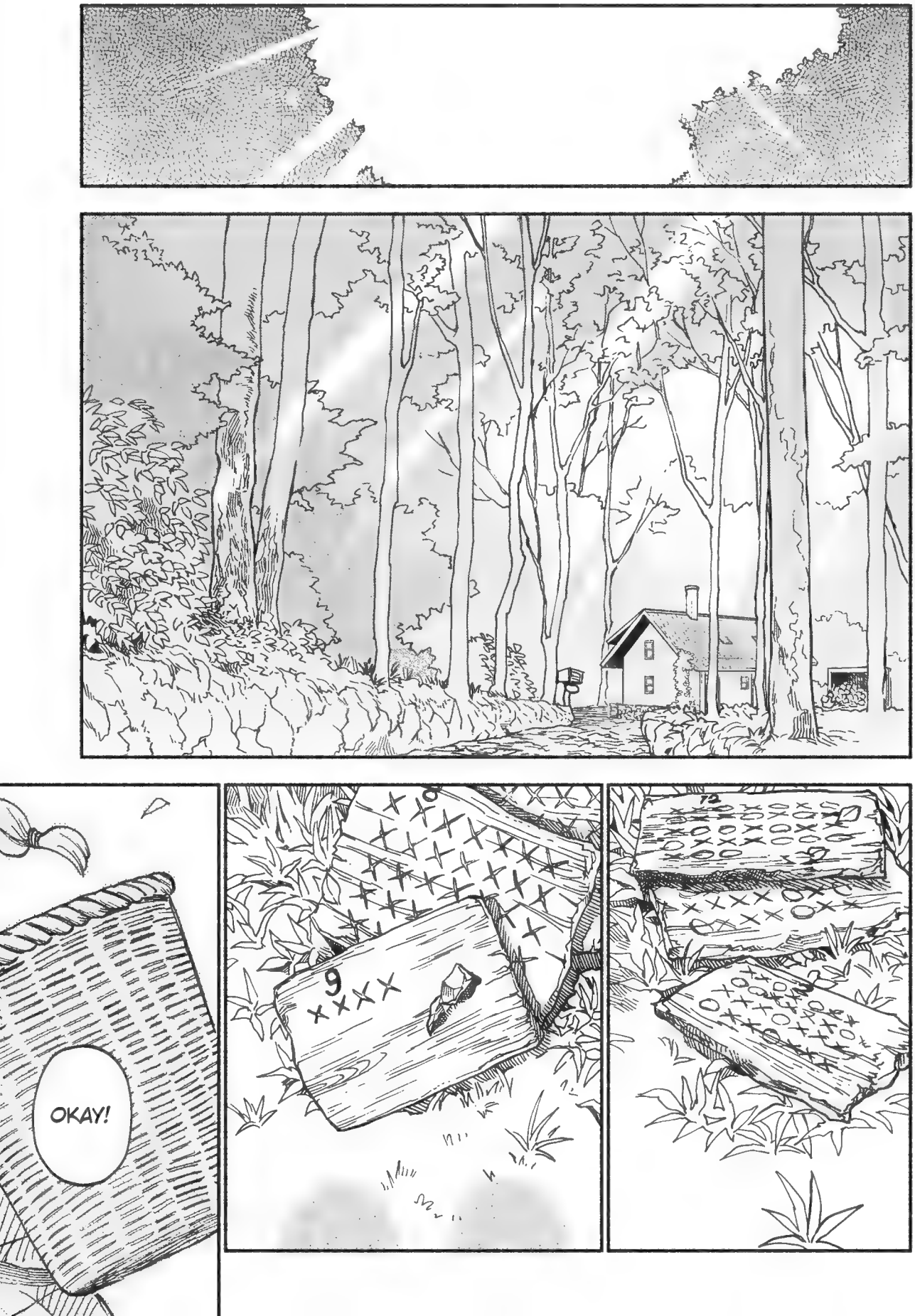

GURGL
WOW, AM I EVER HUNGRY!
SHEEL
SHEEL
SPLSH
TAK
TAK
CRACK
SIZZZ
OH, RIGHT! I STILL HAVE THE EGGS THEY GAVE ME YESTERDAY!




BREAK-
FAST IS
SERVED!

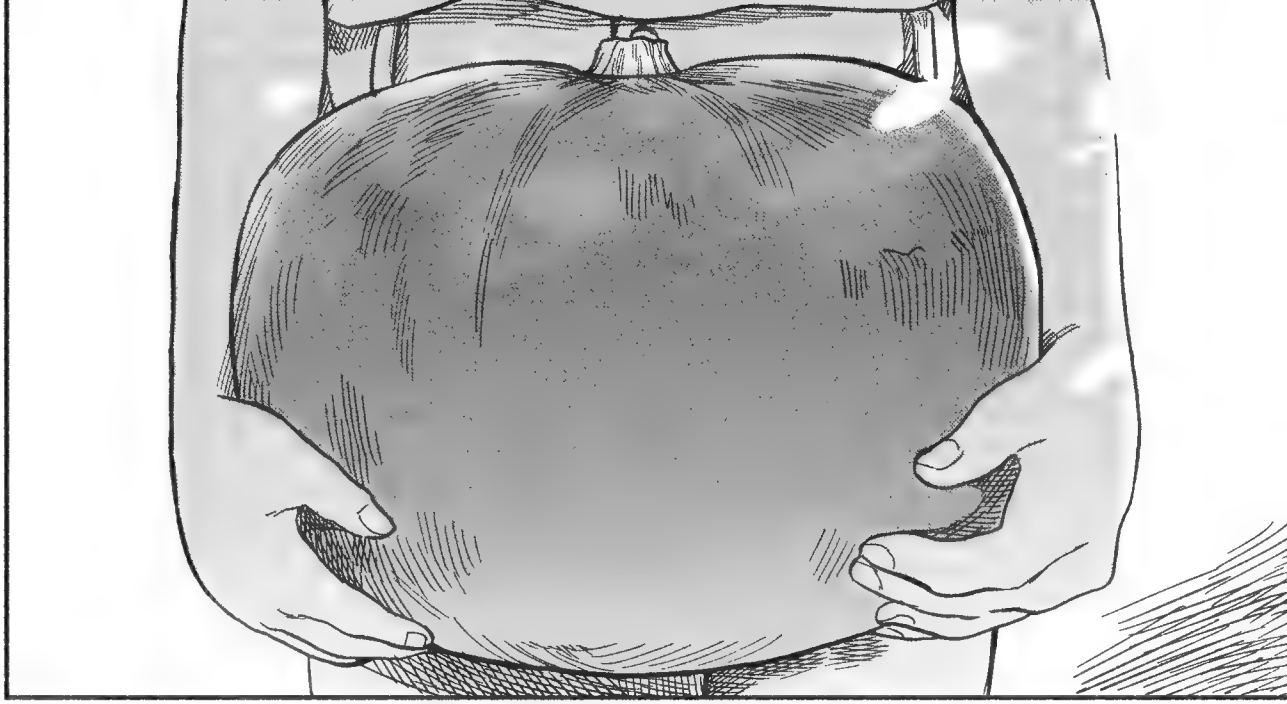

NOM
MMM~! SO GOOD!
CHEW
CHEW

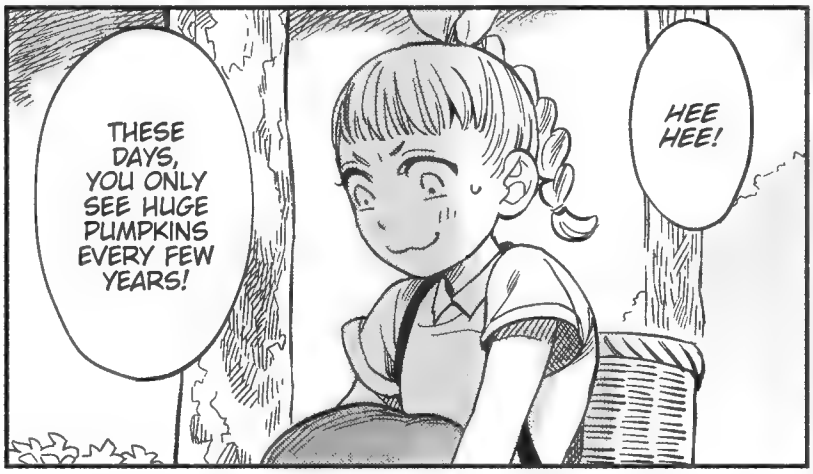

THIS IS DELICIOUS, NAGI.
THAT'S MY GIRL-- BEST COOK IN THE WORLD.
CHEW...


OKAY!
9
12

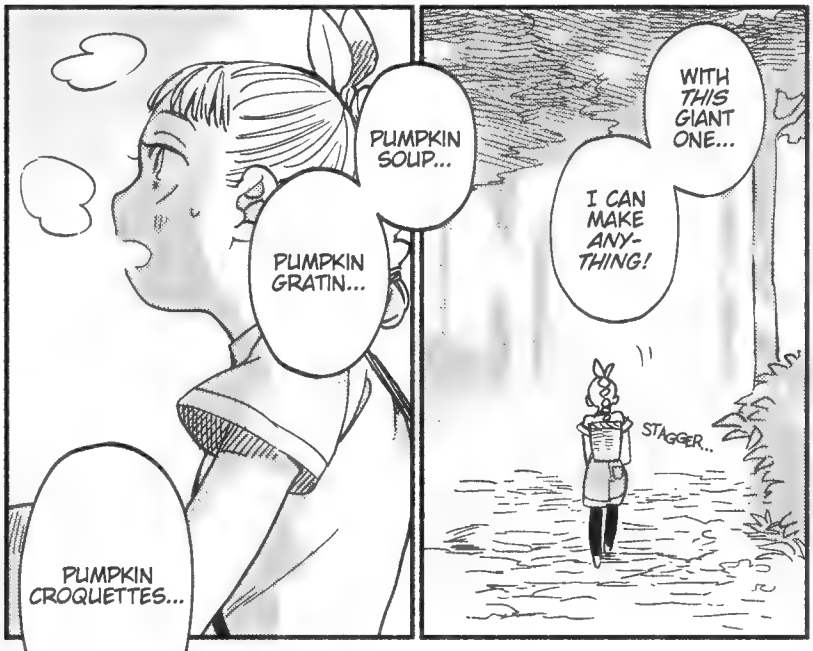
MORN-
ING--!
I'M HEADING OVER TO CHECK ON THE FIELDS!
Co-
coo...
Co-
coo...
FLAP
FLAP
Cooo...
POST

YANK
THERE!
THAT'S PROBABLY ENOUGH WEEDING FOR TODAY.
TUG
TANE
GLEAM
I HARVESTED SOME THINGS, TOO. TIME TO GO HOME!
Whew...
...
HUH...?

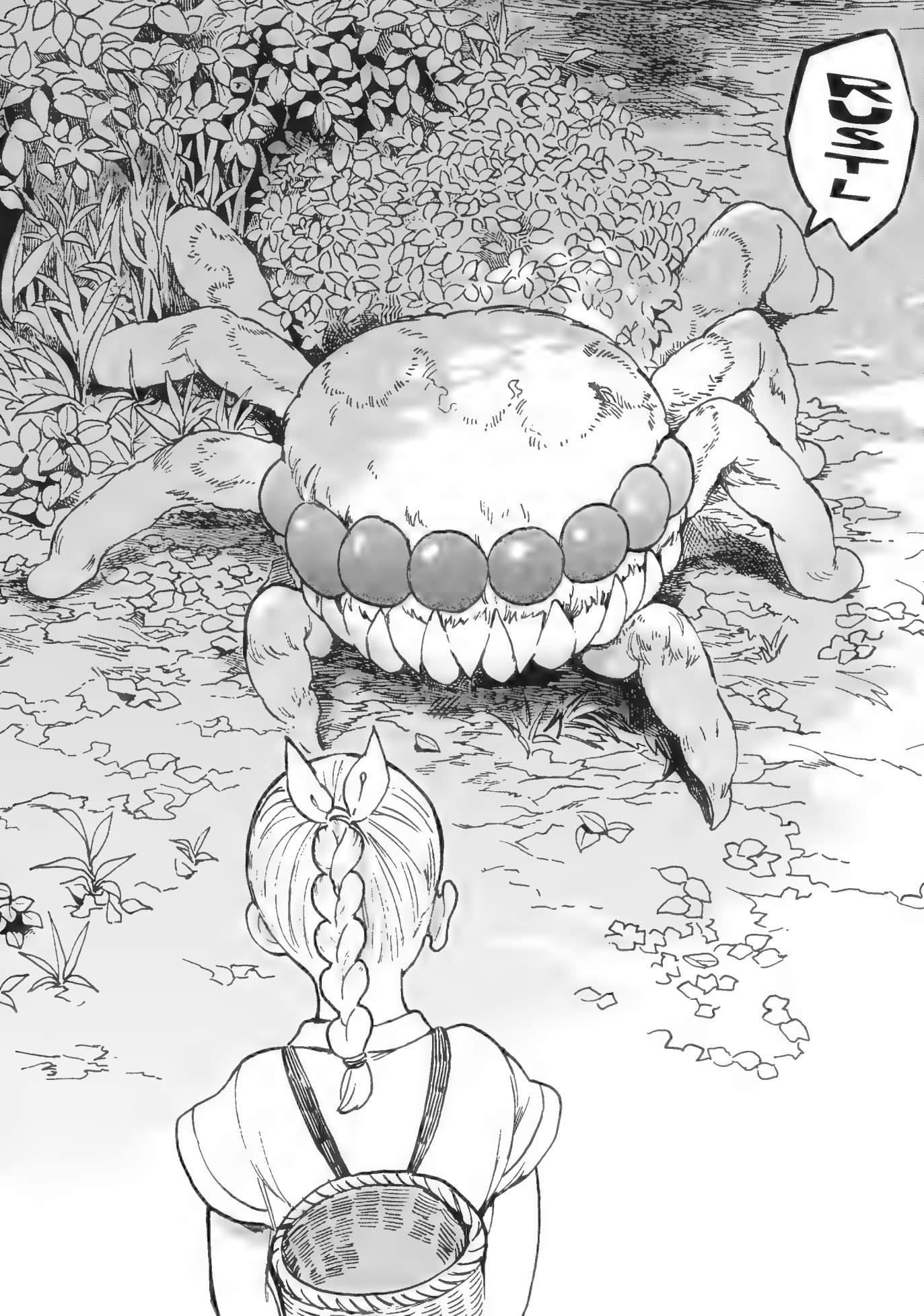


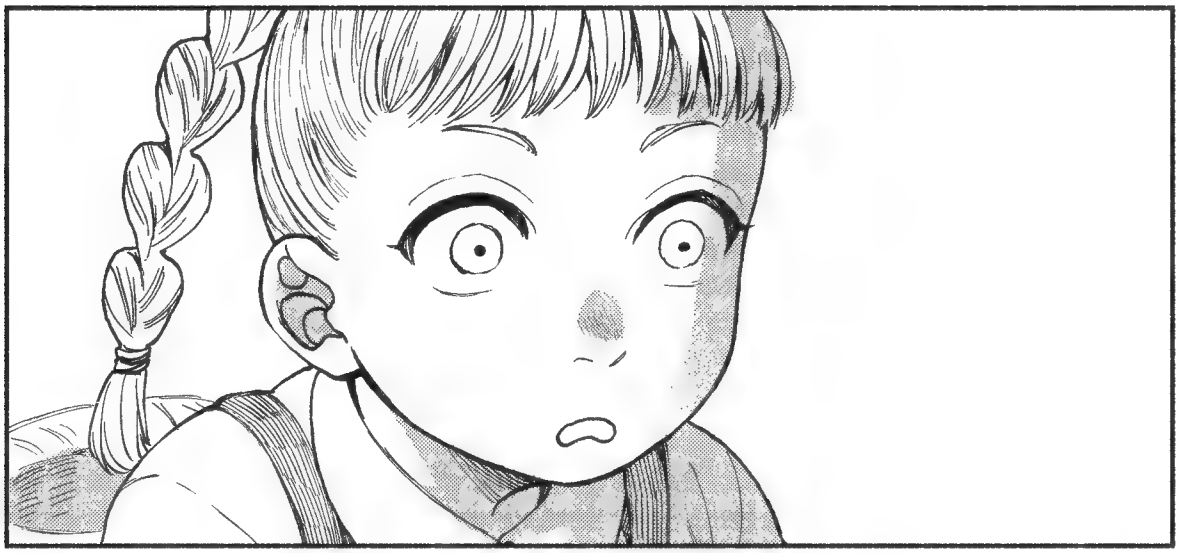

HEE HEE!
THESE DAYS, YOU ONLY SEE HUGE PUMPKINS EVERY FEW YEARS!

.....


WITH THIS GIANT ONE...
I CAN MAKE ANY-THING!
STAGGER...
PUMPKIN SOUP...
PUMPKIN GRATIN...
PUMPKIN CROQUETTES...

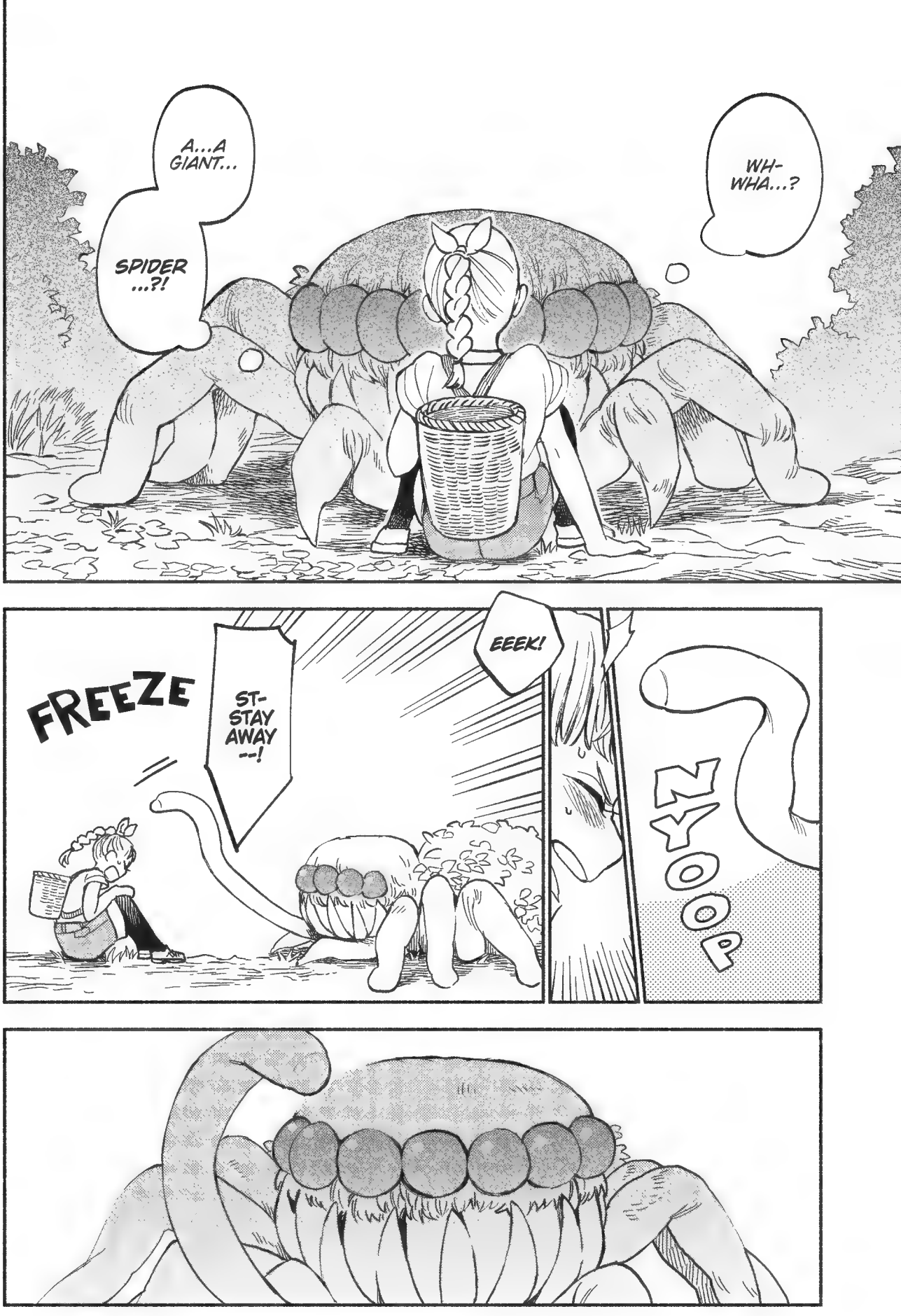
RUSTL
EVEN IF I MAKE ALL THAT, I'M STILL THE ONLY ONE EATING IT...
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
RUSTL
?
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?
AN ANIMAL? SOUNDS LIKE IT'S CAUGHT ON SOME-THING...
RUSTL
RUSTL
EEK—!...
SHWIP


ドシン

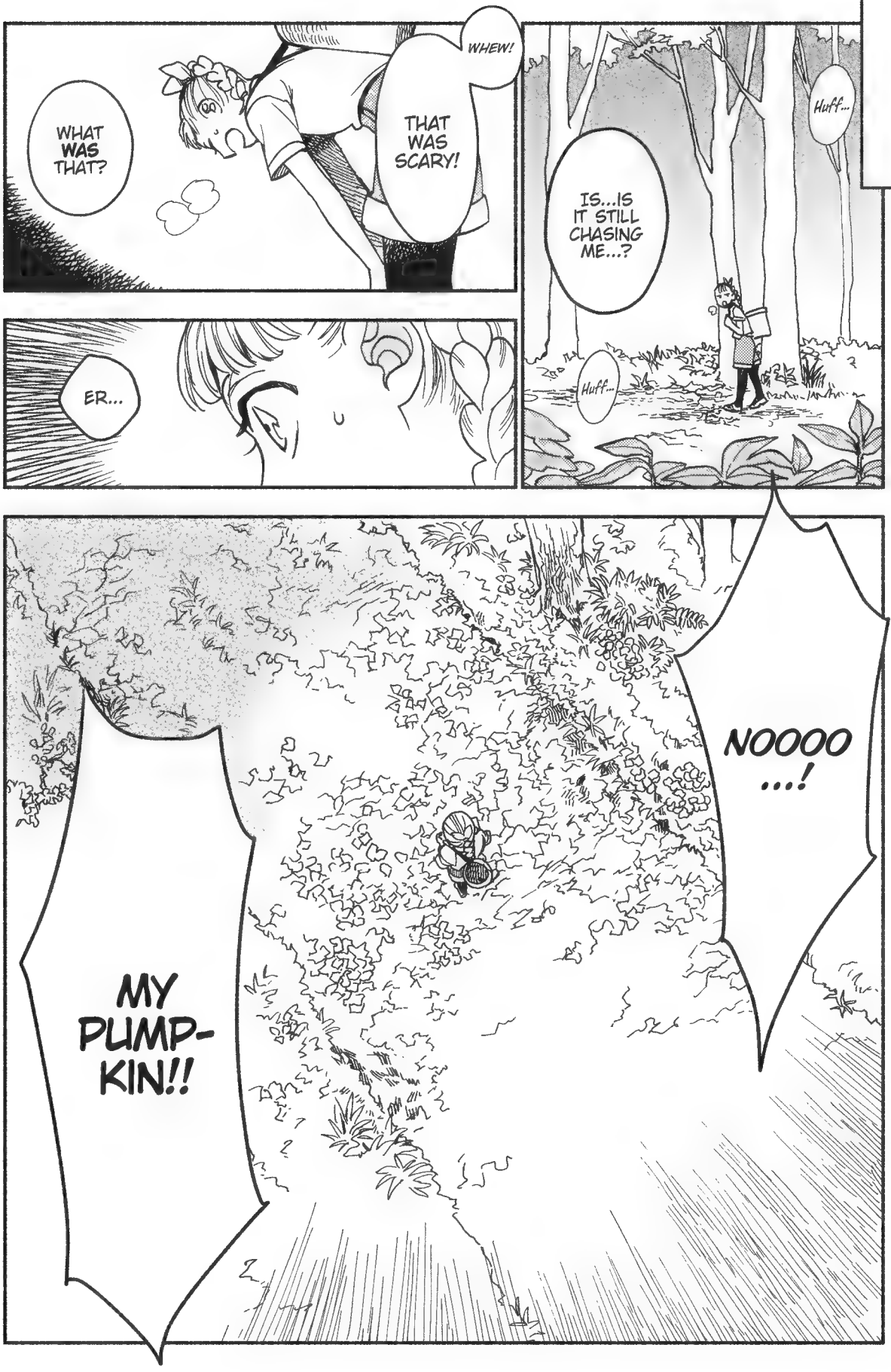


THUD
THUD

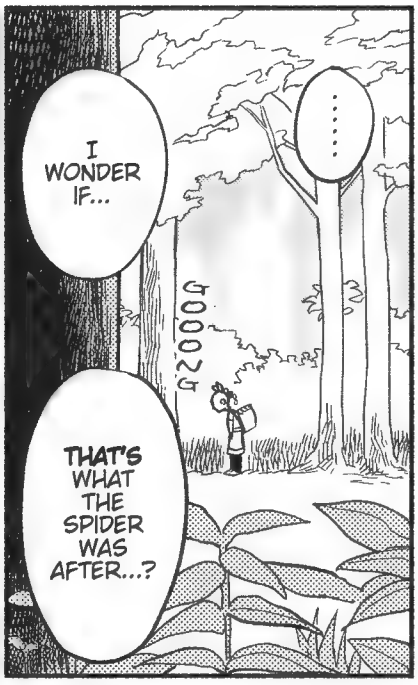
FWUMP
THUD


A...A GIANT...
SPIDER ...?!
WH- WHA...?
FREEZE
ST- STAY AWAY --!
EEEK!
NYOOP

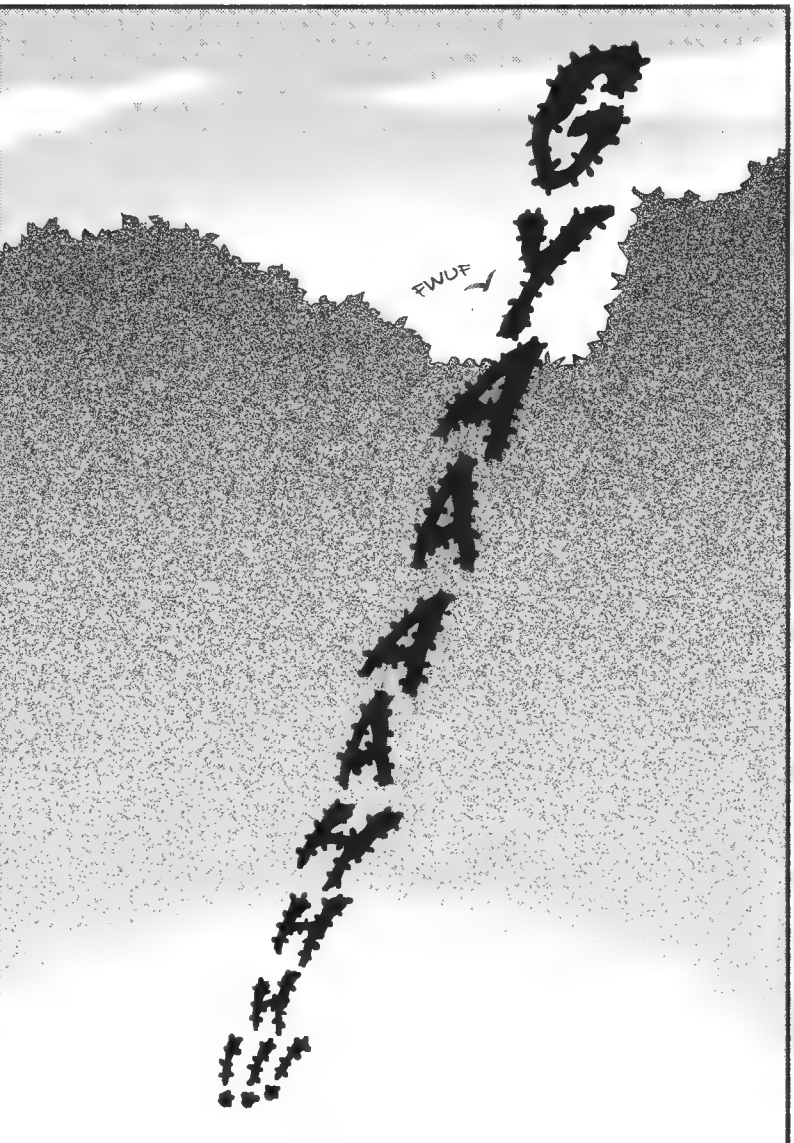
DASH
OH!
IT STOP-PED!
HUFF!
HUFF!

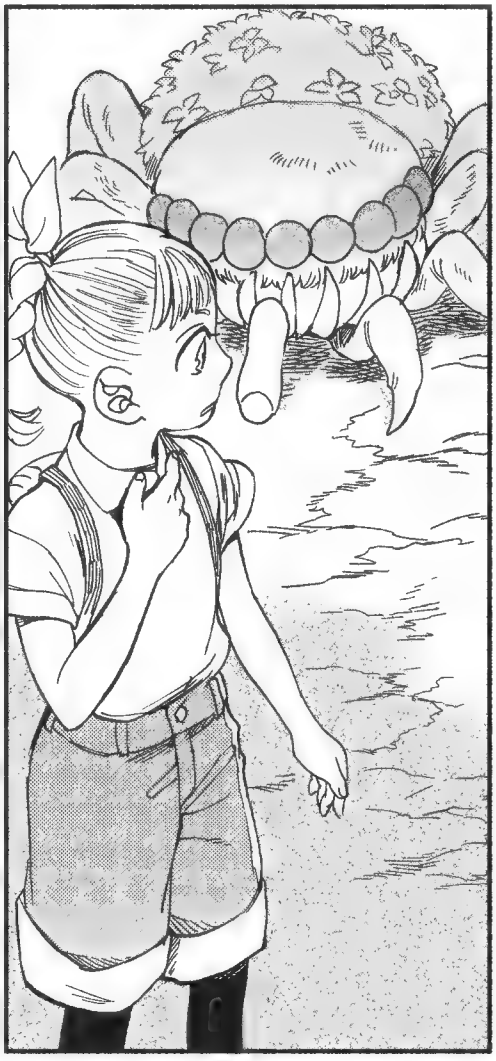

WHAT WAS THAT?
THAT WAS SCARY!
WHEW!
IS...IS IT STILL CHASING ME...?
Huff...
Huff...
ER...
NOOOO ...!
MY PUMP-KIN!!

DO SPIDERS EVEN EAT PUMP-KINS...?
Are they carnivores? Omnivores?
BUT...

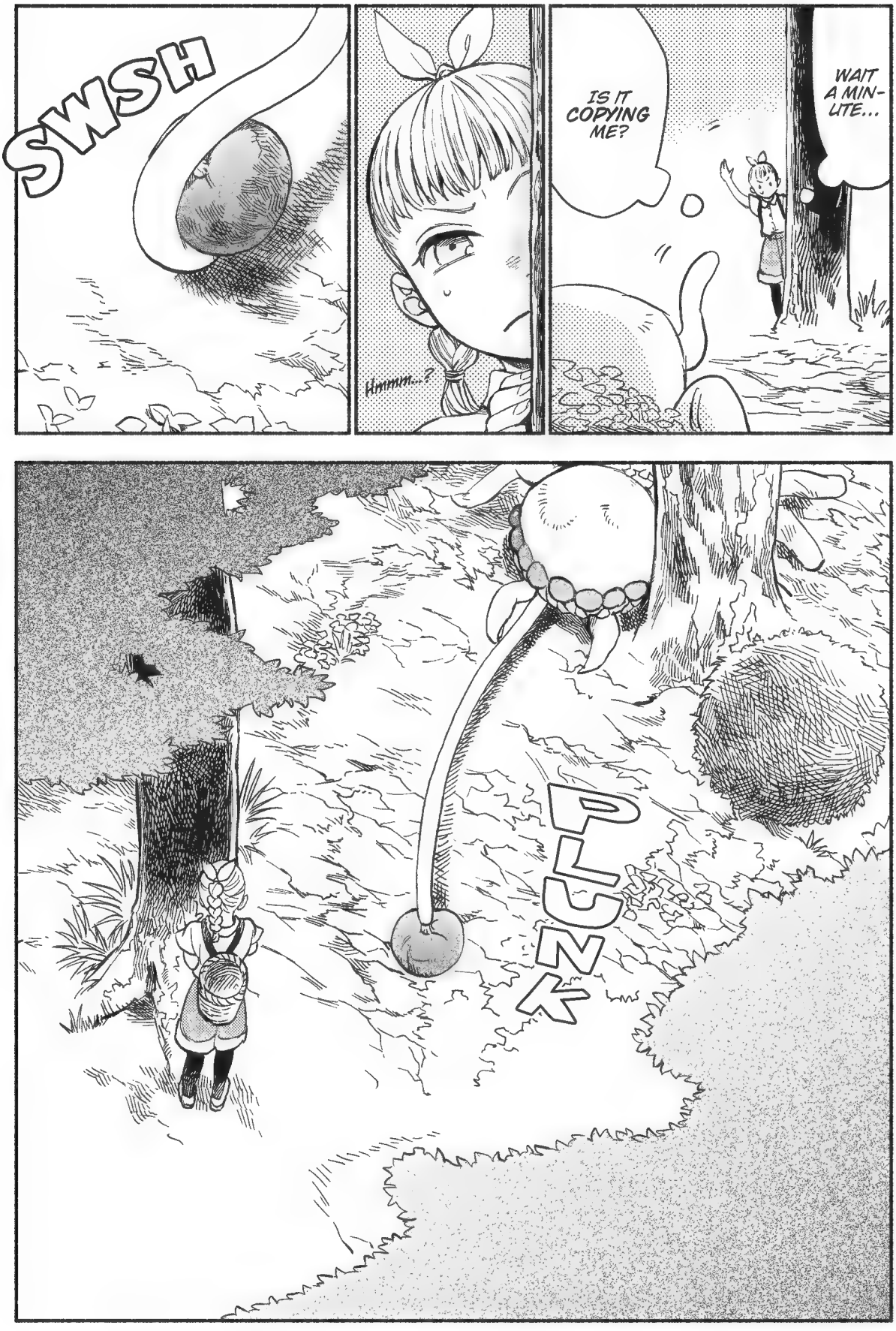

.....
I WONDER IF...
GOOOZ
THAT'S WHAT THE SPIDER WAS AFTER...?

SHUDDER...
MUNCH
KRUNCH
KRUNCH


FWUF
GYAAAAAAAAAAH!!!



SKITTER SKITTER SKITTER
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP AWAY FROM ME!!
H-HEY! CUT IT OUT!
.....?
PEEK
PEEK
WSH
WSH

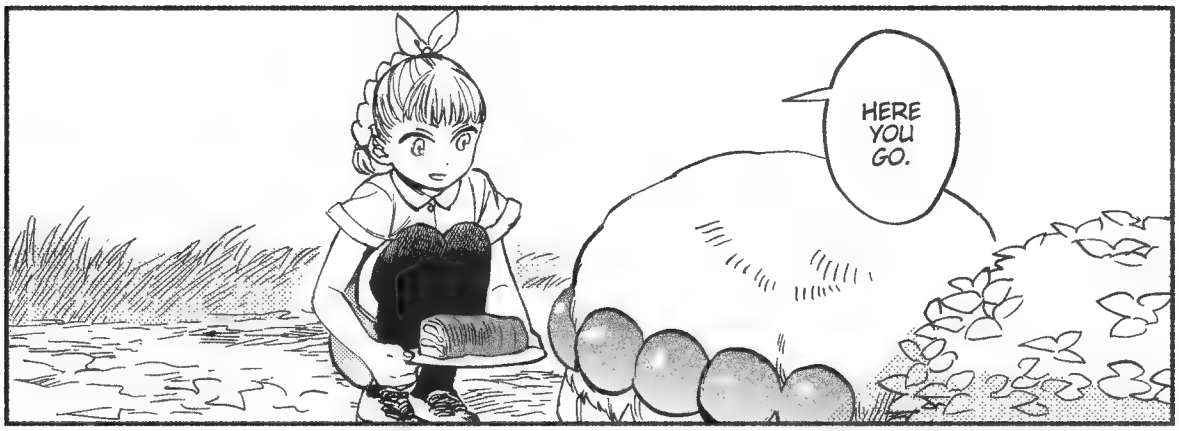

SWSH
Hmmm...?
IS IT COPYING ME?
WAIT A MIN-UTE...
PLUNK

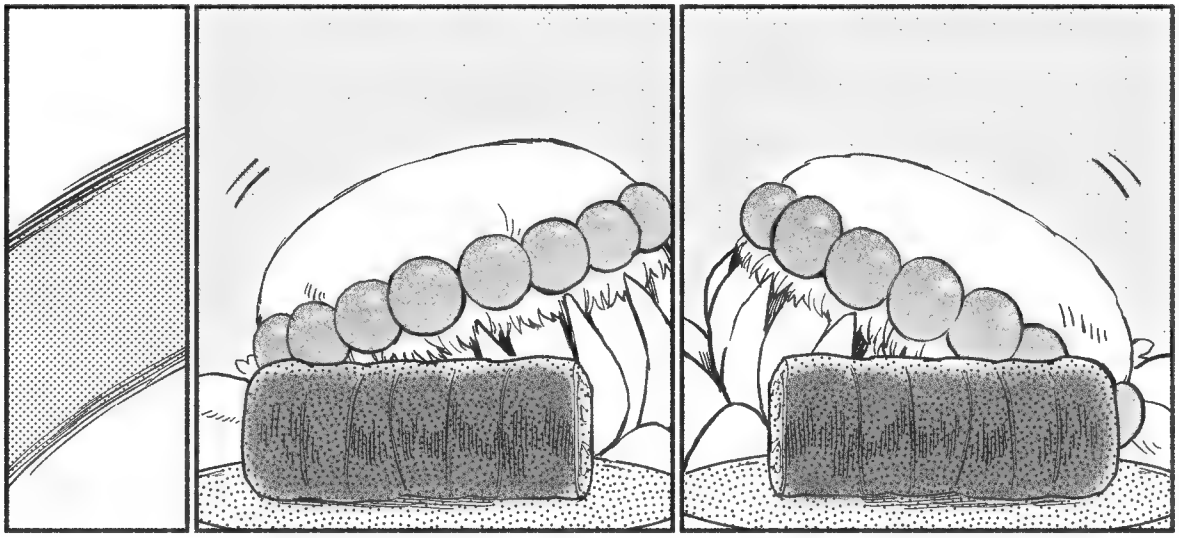
UM...
DID YOU BRING THIS FOR ME?
SHF SHF
.....

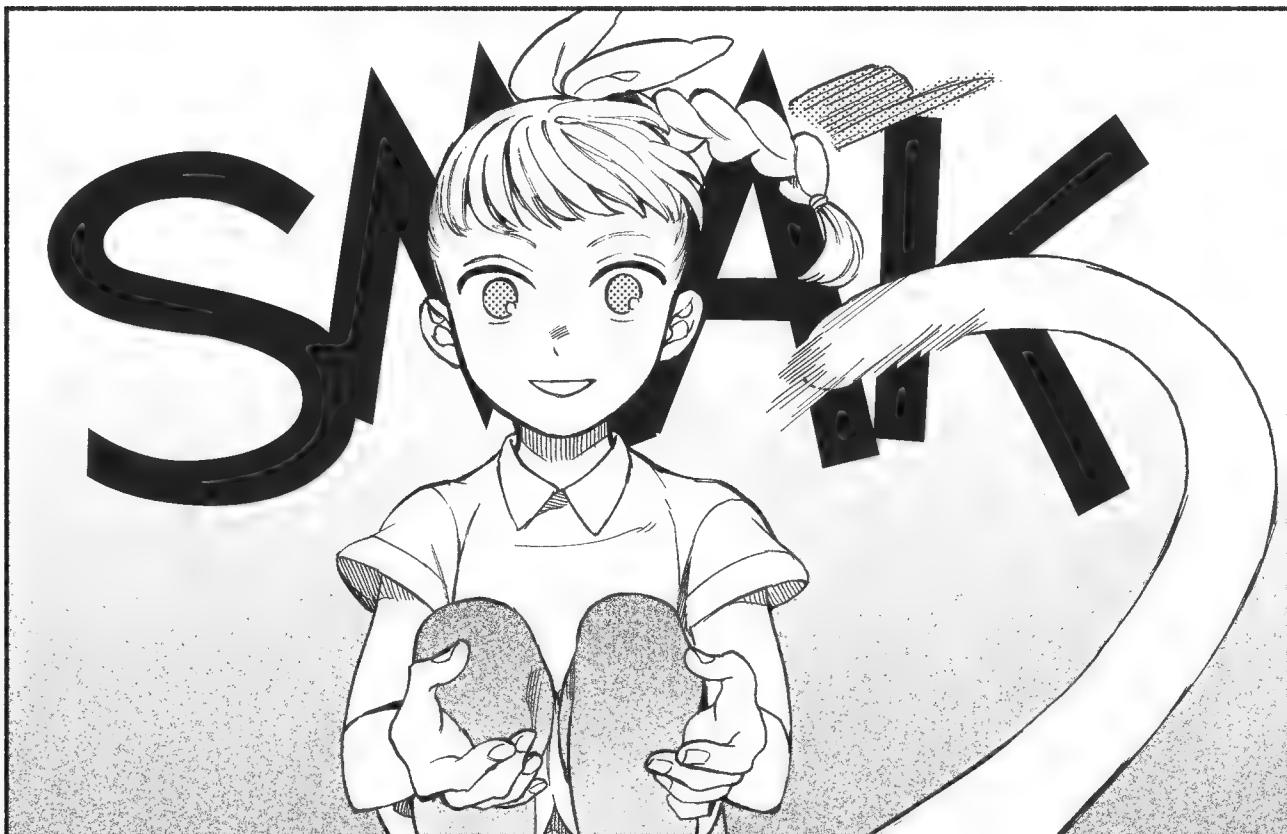
BUT, UH...THIS TIME YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T FOLLOW ME. OKAY?
THANK YOU.
HEFT
SKRICH
SKRICH
IT DOESN'T LOOK VERY SCARY... FOR A SPIDER.
I WONDER WHAT IT WANTS?
Five minutes later...
IT'S STILL FOLLOWING ME.
TUMP
TUMP

GUUUUURGL GURGL GURGL
AH. I SEE.
POST

WAIT THERE!
I'LL GET SOME FOOD FOR YOU!
WHEW!
WHRL
?
TMP
TMP
TMP


HERE YOU GO.

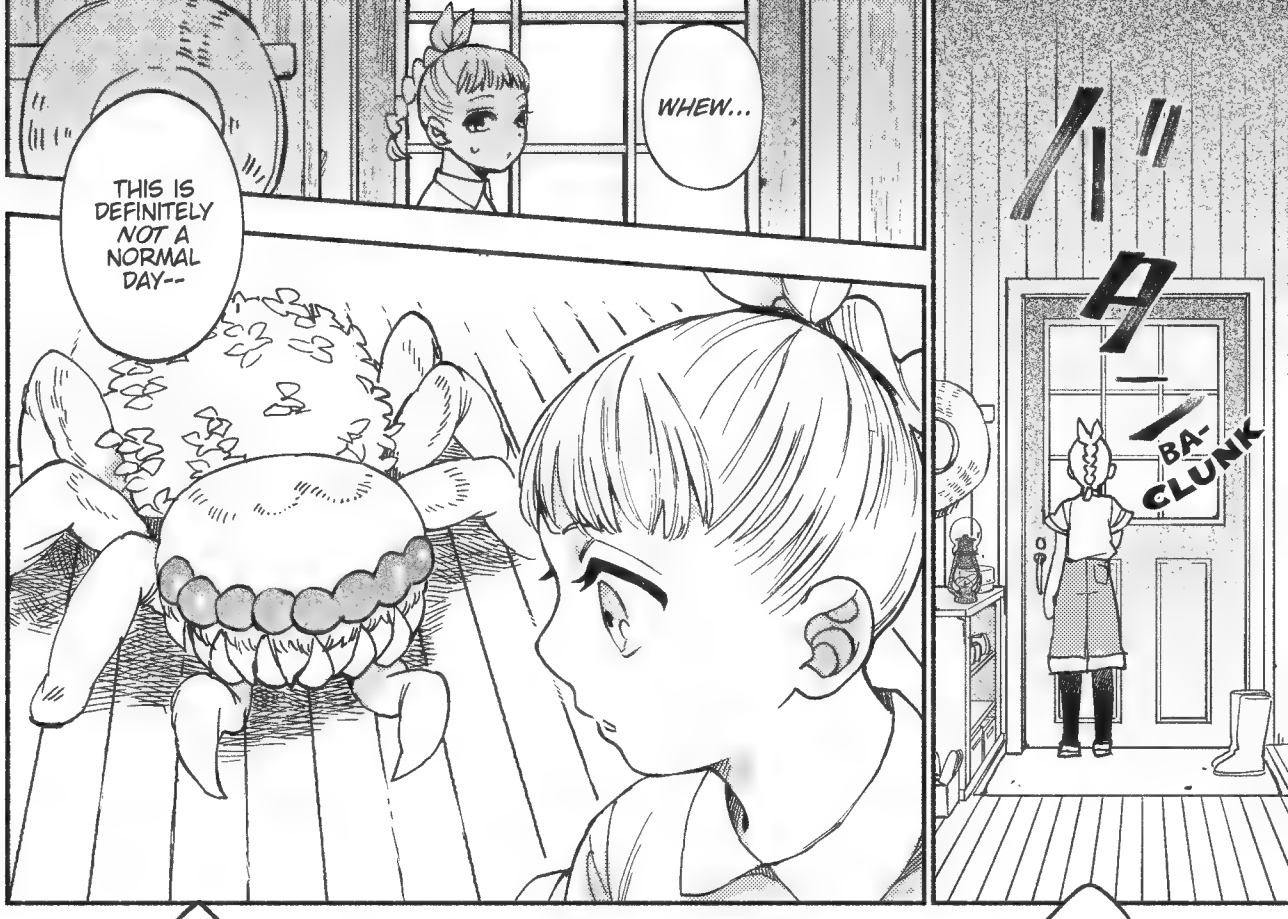


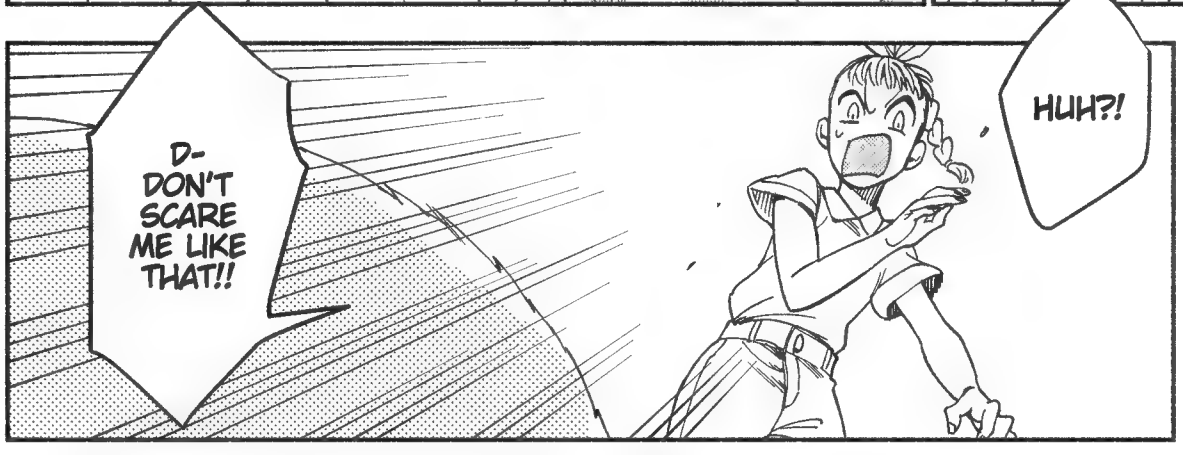

SMACK

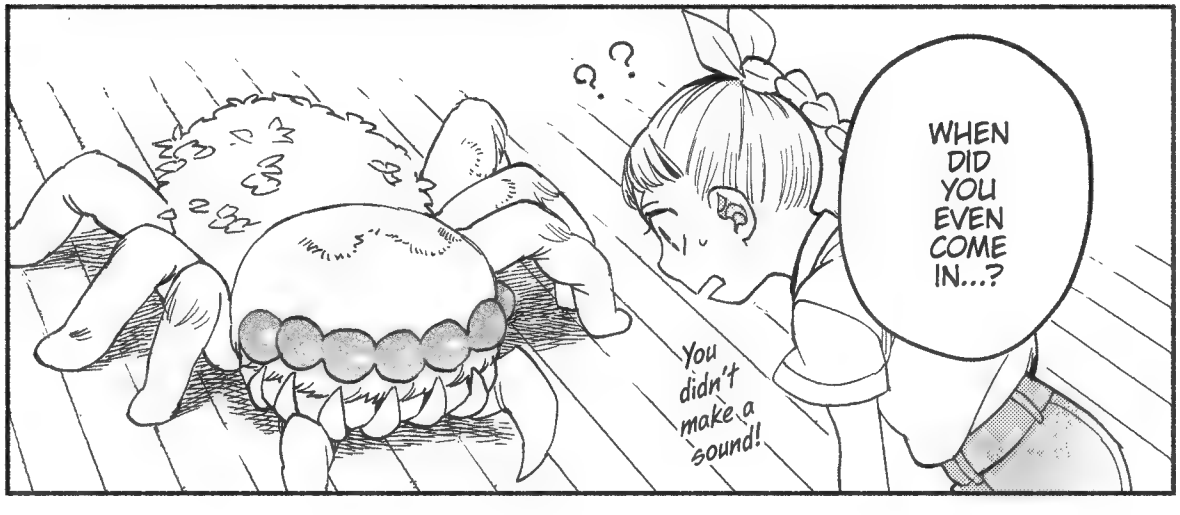
Hah!
HANG ON... MAYBE IT CAN ONLY EAT RAW MEAT...?
HEY!
THAT WASN'T NICE, WAS IT?!
YOU CAN'T JUST THROW FOOD AROUND!
...?
PLOP
.....
TMP
TMP
STAY PUT!
I'LL CHECK THE COLD CEL-LAR!
HERE. HOW ABOUT THIS?

AAAAAAAH!!
SMAK
OKAY, NO MEAT! WHAT ABOUT VEGGIES?!
How about this?
SMAK
This?!
SWAT
Maybe this...?!
SMAT
SWAK
SMAT
SMAK
SMAT
SWAT

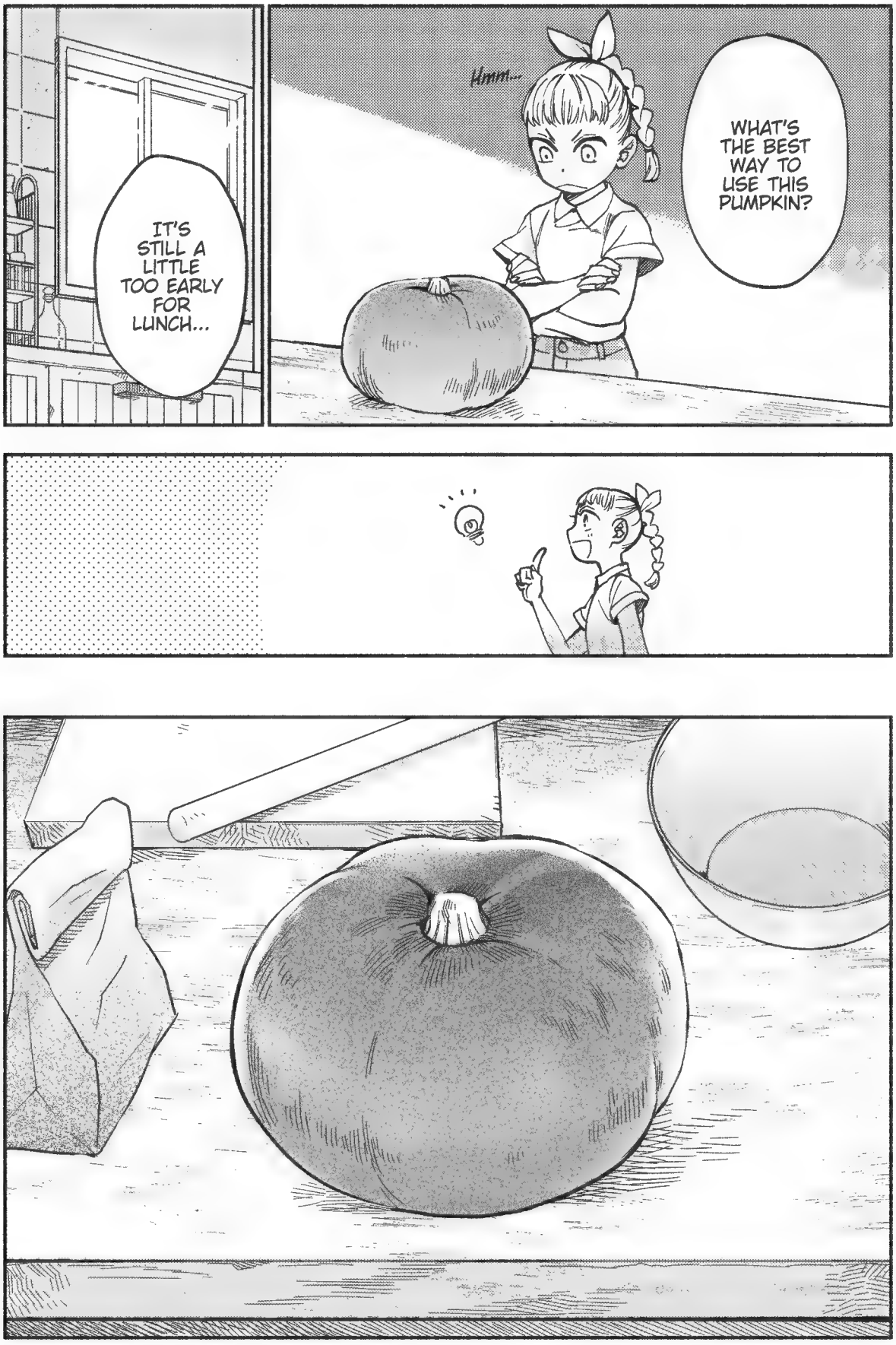
HUFF
WHEEZE
GURGL
UGH...
OKAY, SO WHAT DOES IT EAT...?
Crap.
NOW I'M GETTING HUNGRY.
I'M GONNA GO MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT.
KA-CHAK


WHEW...
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A NORMAL DAY--
BA-CLUNK

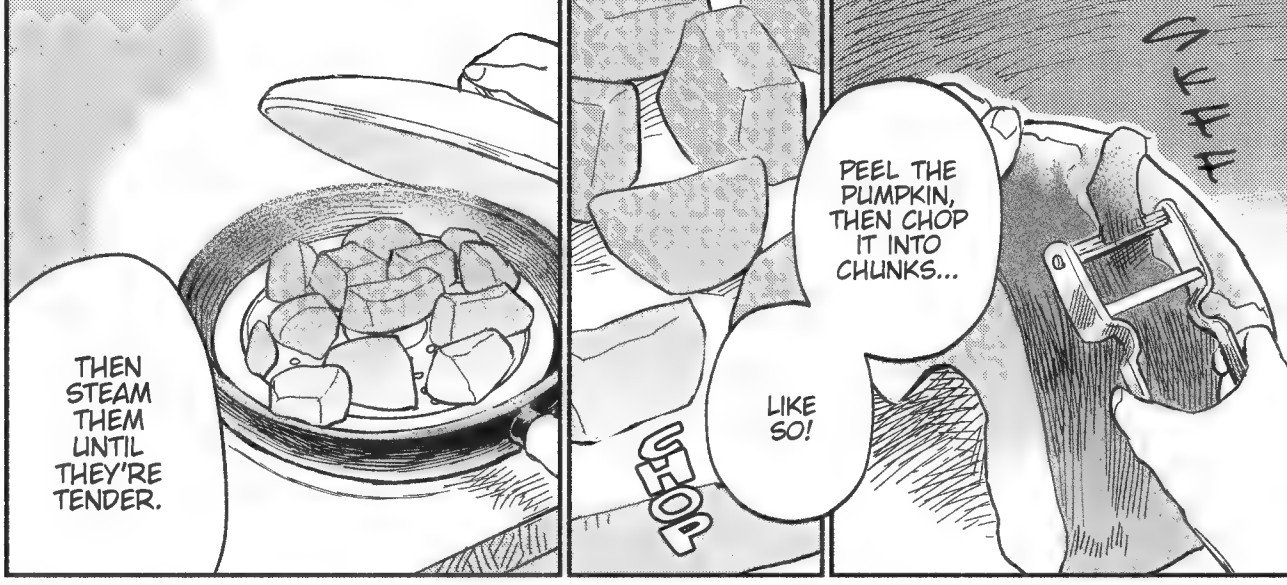

HUH?!
D-DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!!

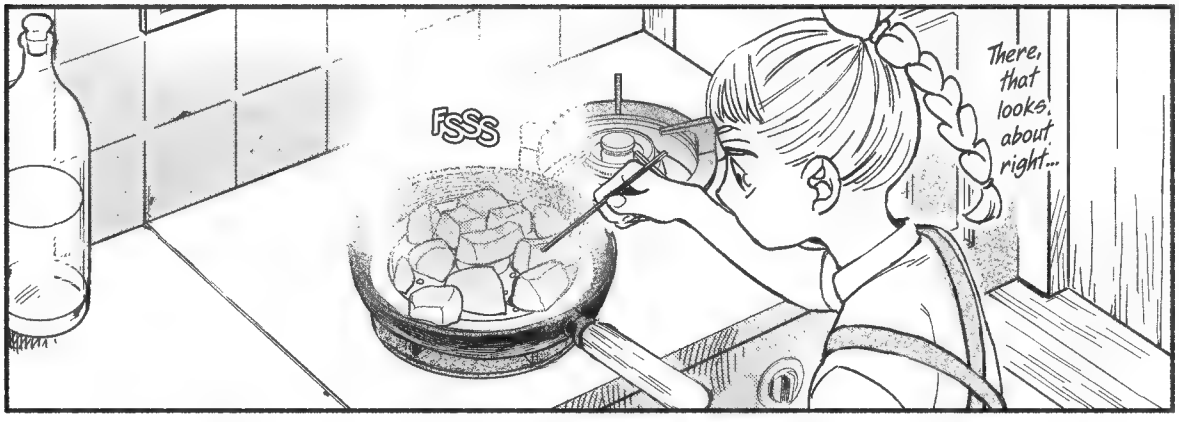

WHEN DID YOU EVEN COME IN...?
You didn't make a sound!

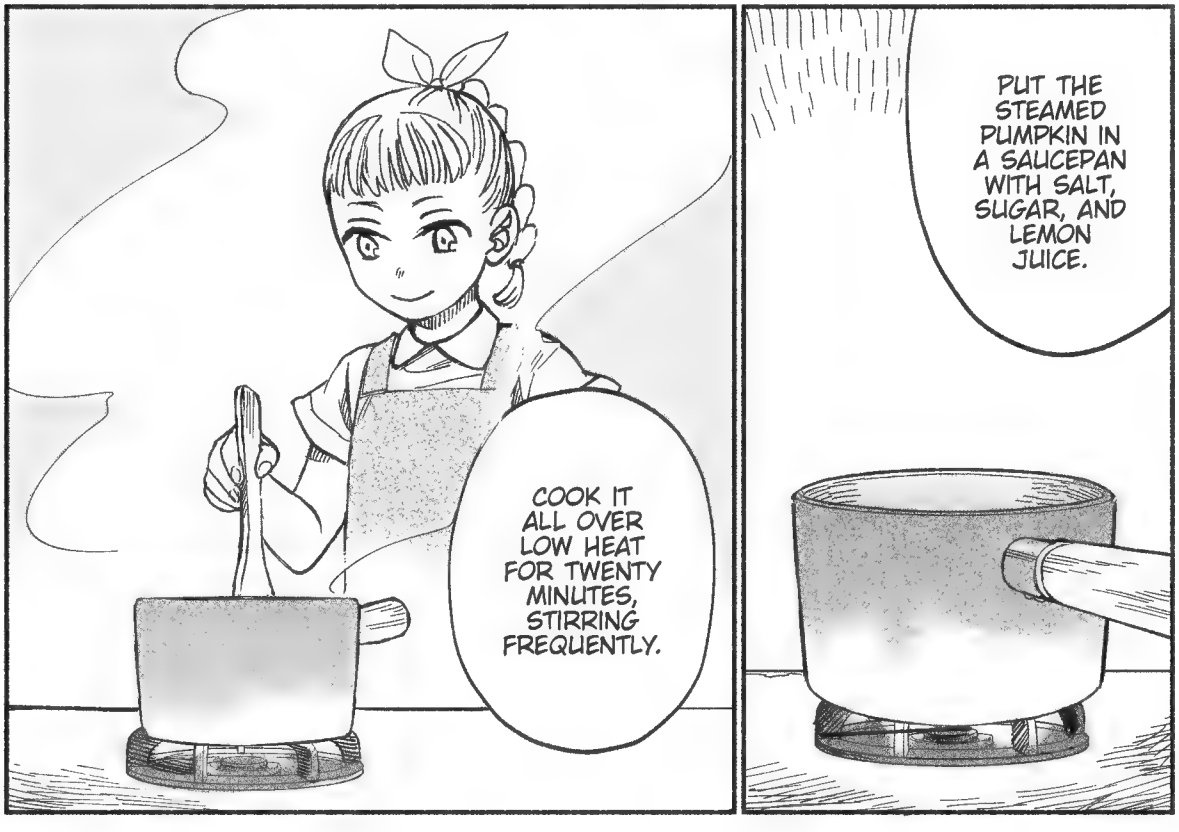
YOU HAVE TO BEHAVE, ALL RIGHT?
OKAY, FINE, BUT...
IF YOU'RE IN HERE...
STARE
.....
LET'S SEE.

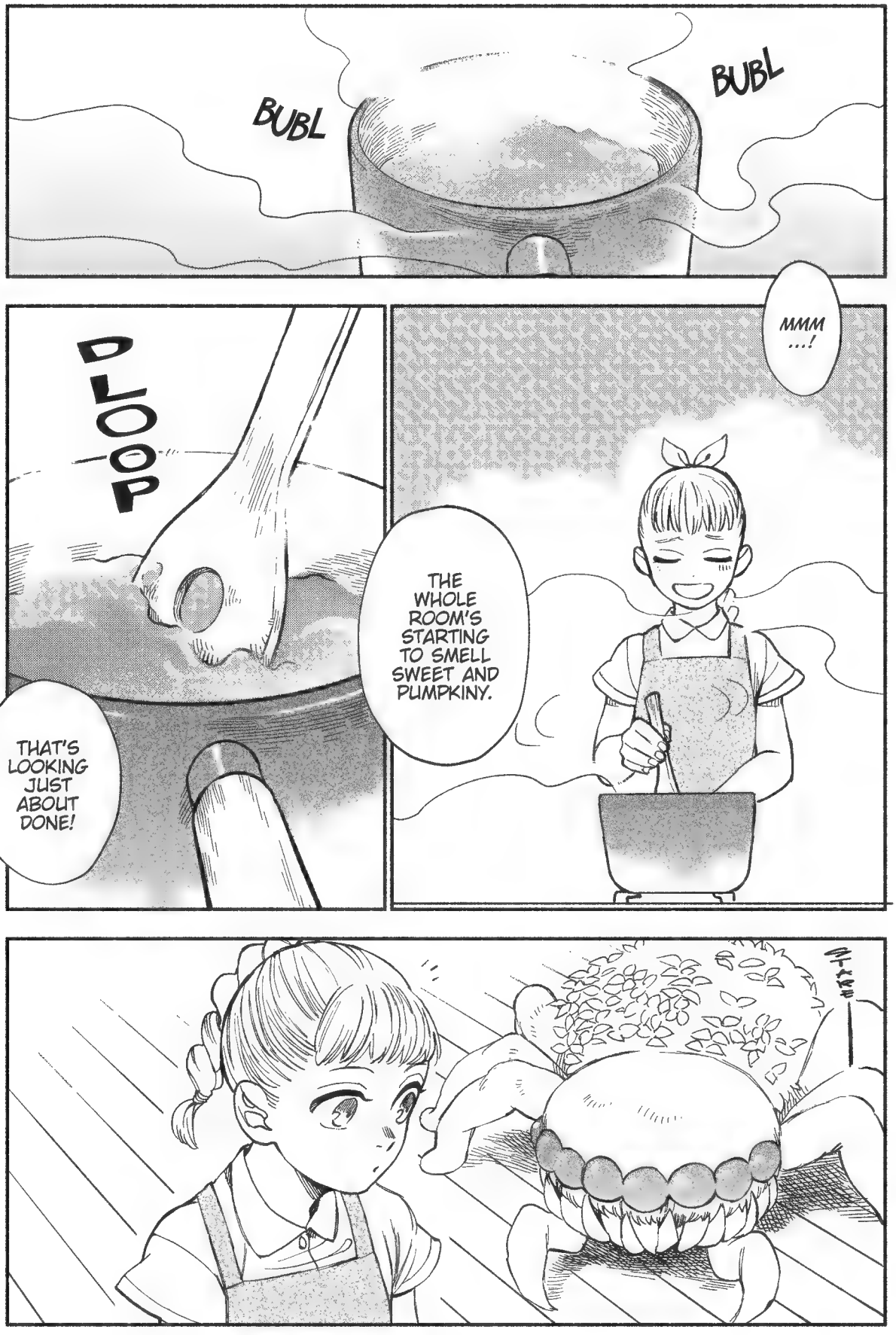

IT'S STILL A LITTLE TOO EARLY FOR LUNCH...
Hmm...
WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO USE THIS PUMPKIN?

SHWF
FIRST, I HAVE TO MAKE DOUGH.
TAKE ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR, ADD HOT WATER AND SALT...
THEN GIVE IT A QUICK, ROUGH MIX.
ONCE THE FLOUR'S MOSTLY WET, IT'S TIME FOR HAND-KNEADING!
It needs a light dusting of flour.
Whoops!
The dough'll be sticky, so...
KNEAD
KNEAD
THERE! NOW THAT IT'S ALL KNEADED TOGETHER...
I JUST HAVE TO WRAP IT UP AND LET IT RISE FOR HALF AN HOUR OR SO.
PERFECT!
NOW TO MAKE THE FILLING!

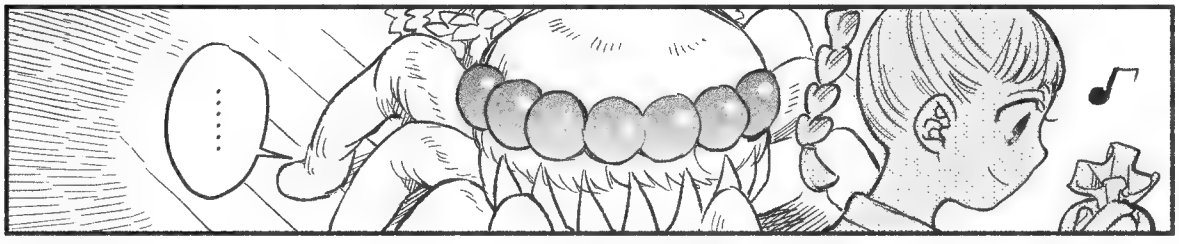

THEN STEAM THEM UNTIL THEY'RE TENDER.
CHOP
PEEL THE PUMPKIN, THEN CHOP IT INTO CHUNKS...
LIKE SO!
HAH

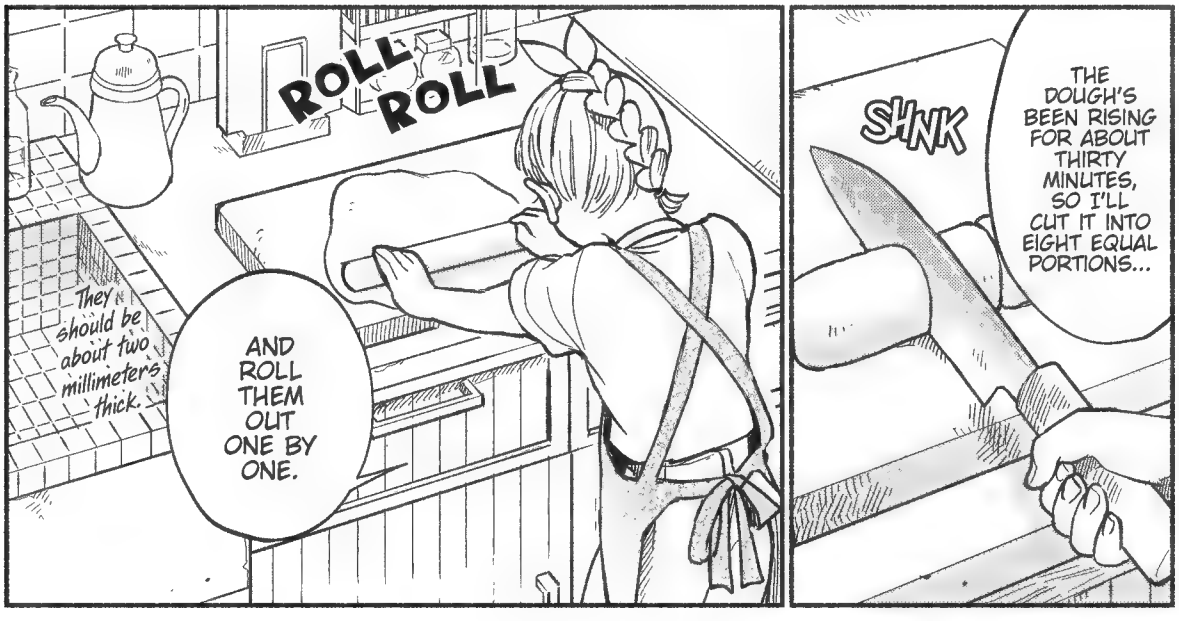

FSSS
There, that looks about right...


COOK IT ALL OVER LOW HEAT FOR TWENTY MINUTES, STIRRING FREQUENTLY.
PUT THE STEAMED PUMPKIN IN A SAUCEPAN WITH SALT, SUGAR, AND LEMON JUICE.

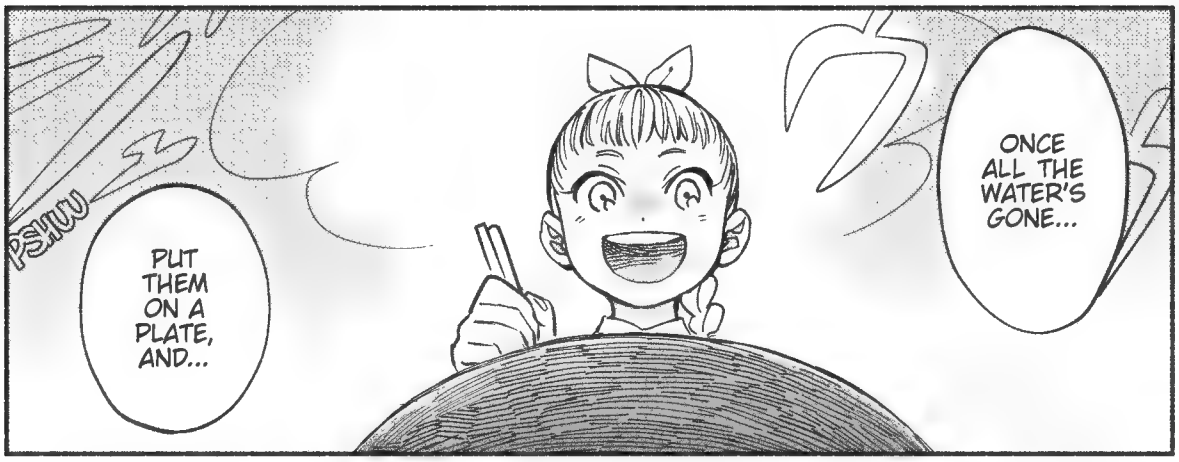

BUBL
BUBL
MMM ...!
THE WHOLE ROOM'S STARTING TO SMELL SWEET AND PUMPKINY.
DLOOP
THAT'S LOOKING JUST ABOUT DONE!

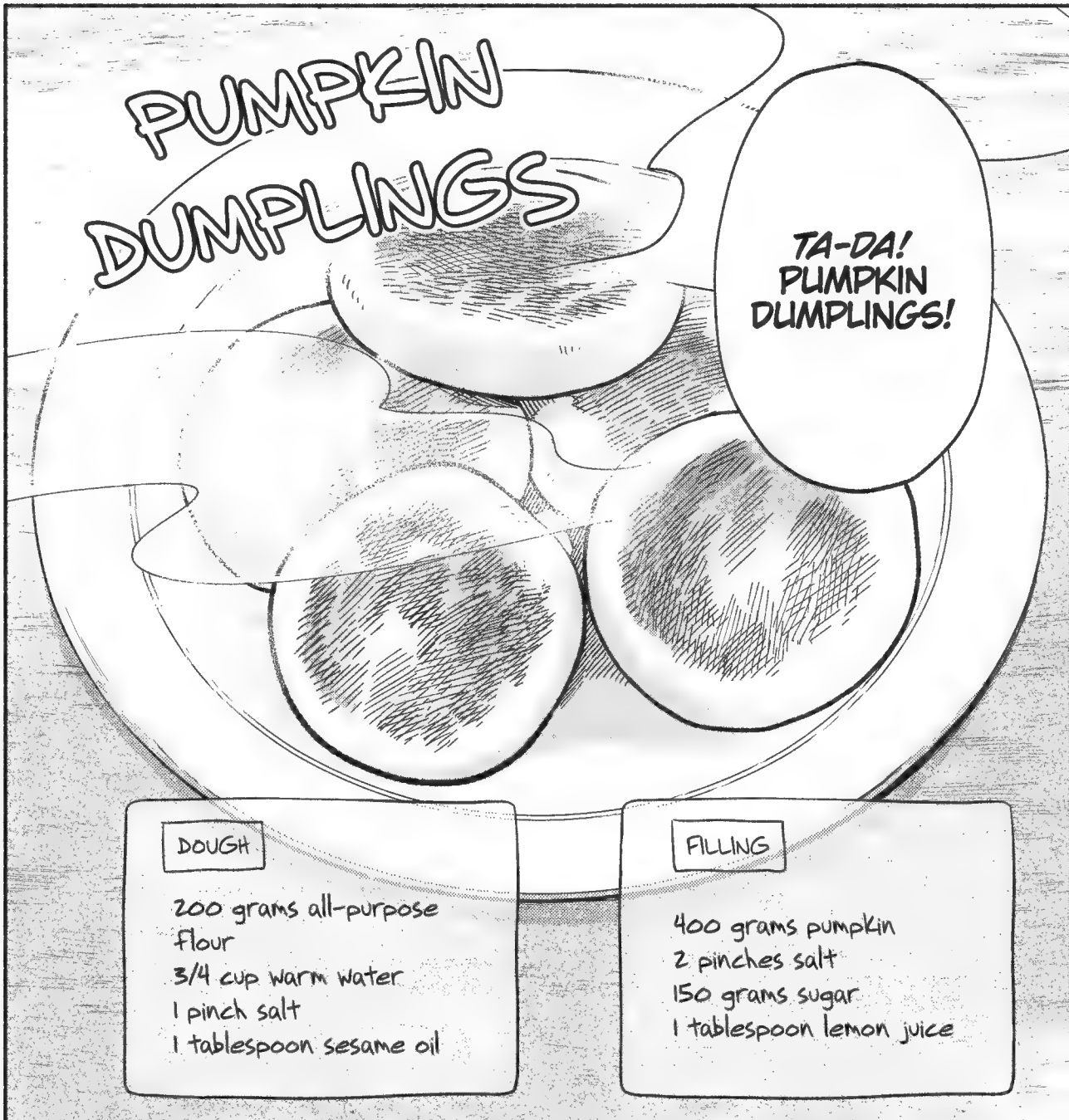
ISN'T IT FUN TO WATCH?
THIS MUST LOOK LIKE MAGIC, HUH?
!


.....


ROLL ROLL
They should be about two millimeters thick.
AND ROLL THEM OUT ONE BY ONE.
SHNK
THE DOUGH'S BEEN RISING FOR ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES, SO I'LL CUT IT INTO EIGHT EQUAL PORTIONS...

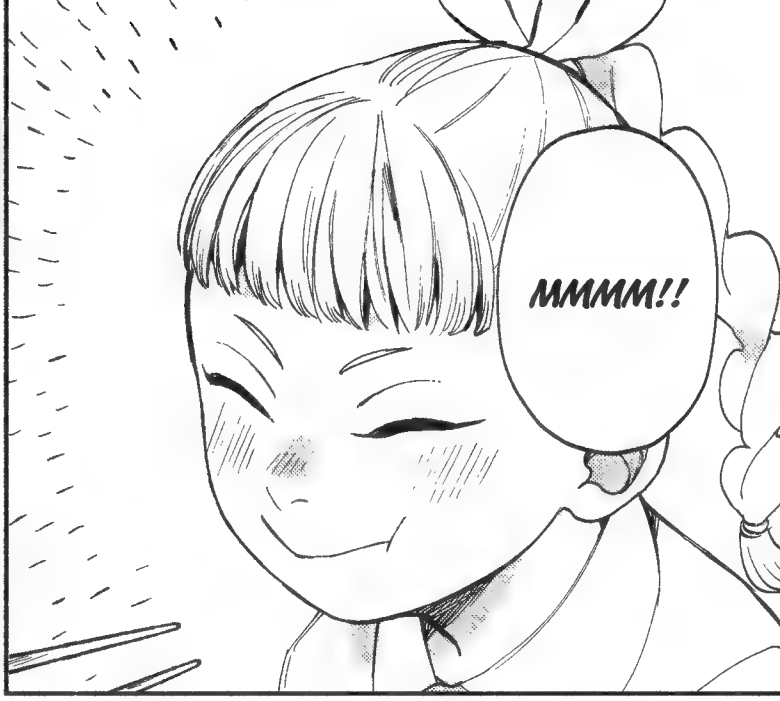
HEAT A FRYING PAN AND GREASE IT WITH A LITTLE SESAME OIL...
THEN PUT THE DUMPLINGS IN, WITH THE MOUTH SIDE OF THE DOUGH "PURSE" DOWN.
PUT A DOLLOP OF PUMPKIN IN EACH PIECE AND CLOSE IT UP.
Give each one a gentle little squish.
SQUISH
KA-POK
COVER THE PAN AND LET THEM COOK FOR SEVEN MINUTES.
TO FINISH THEM UP, FLIP THEM AGAIN, ADD SOME WATER, AND CRANK THE HEAT TO HIGH!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
AFTER THAT, FLIP THEM OVER AND PUT THE LID BACK ON...
FOR FIVE MINUTES.

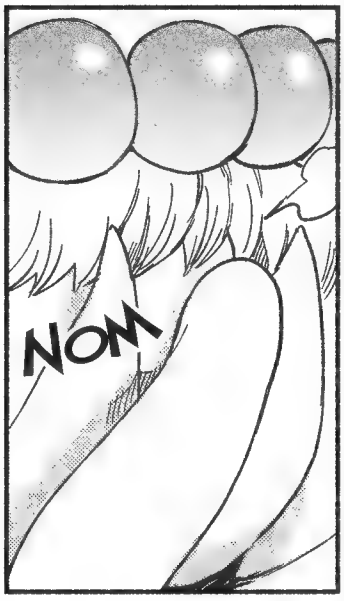

PSHUU
PUT THEM ON A PLATE, AND...
ONCE ALL THE WATER'S GONE...


PUMPKIN DUMPLINGS
TA-DA! PUMPKIN DUMPLINGS!
DOUGH
200 grams all-purpose flour
3/4 cup warm water
1 pinch salt
1 tablespoon sesame oil
FILLING
400 grams pumpkin
2 pinches salt
150 grams sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice

SNIP
NOW I GET TO EAT THEM ALL UP!
はぐ
NOM

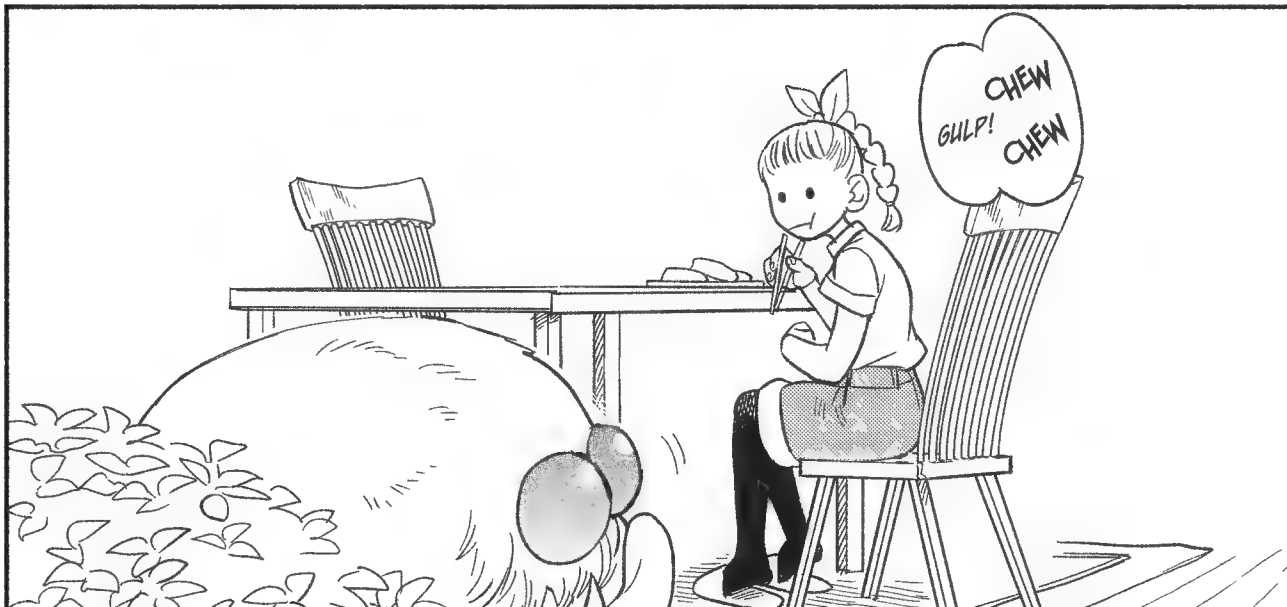
FRESH OUT OF THE PAN...
PUFF
PUFF
THEY'RE SO SOFT AND CHEWY, AND THE PUMPKIN'S JUST SWEET ENOUGH!

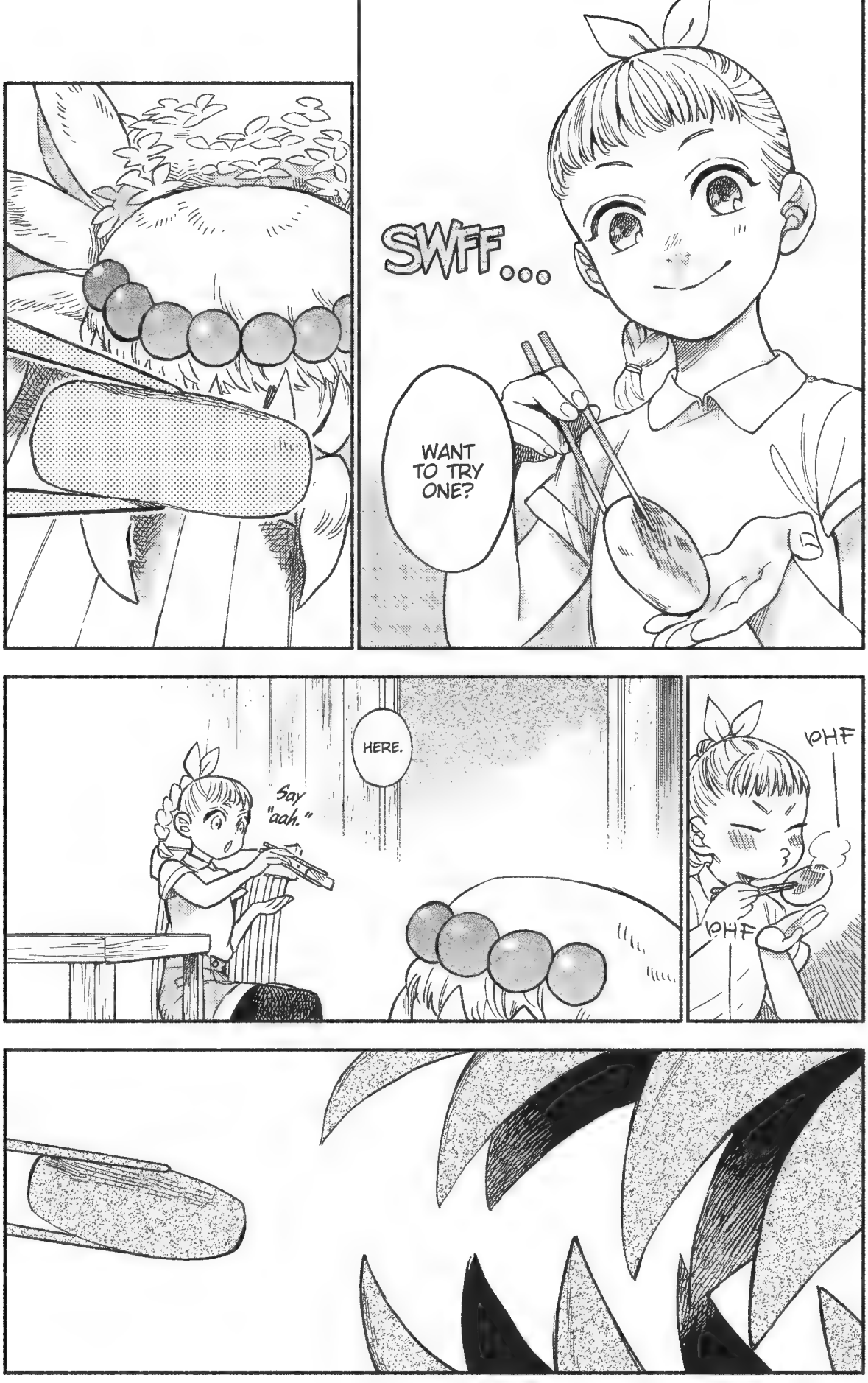

MMMM!!

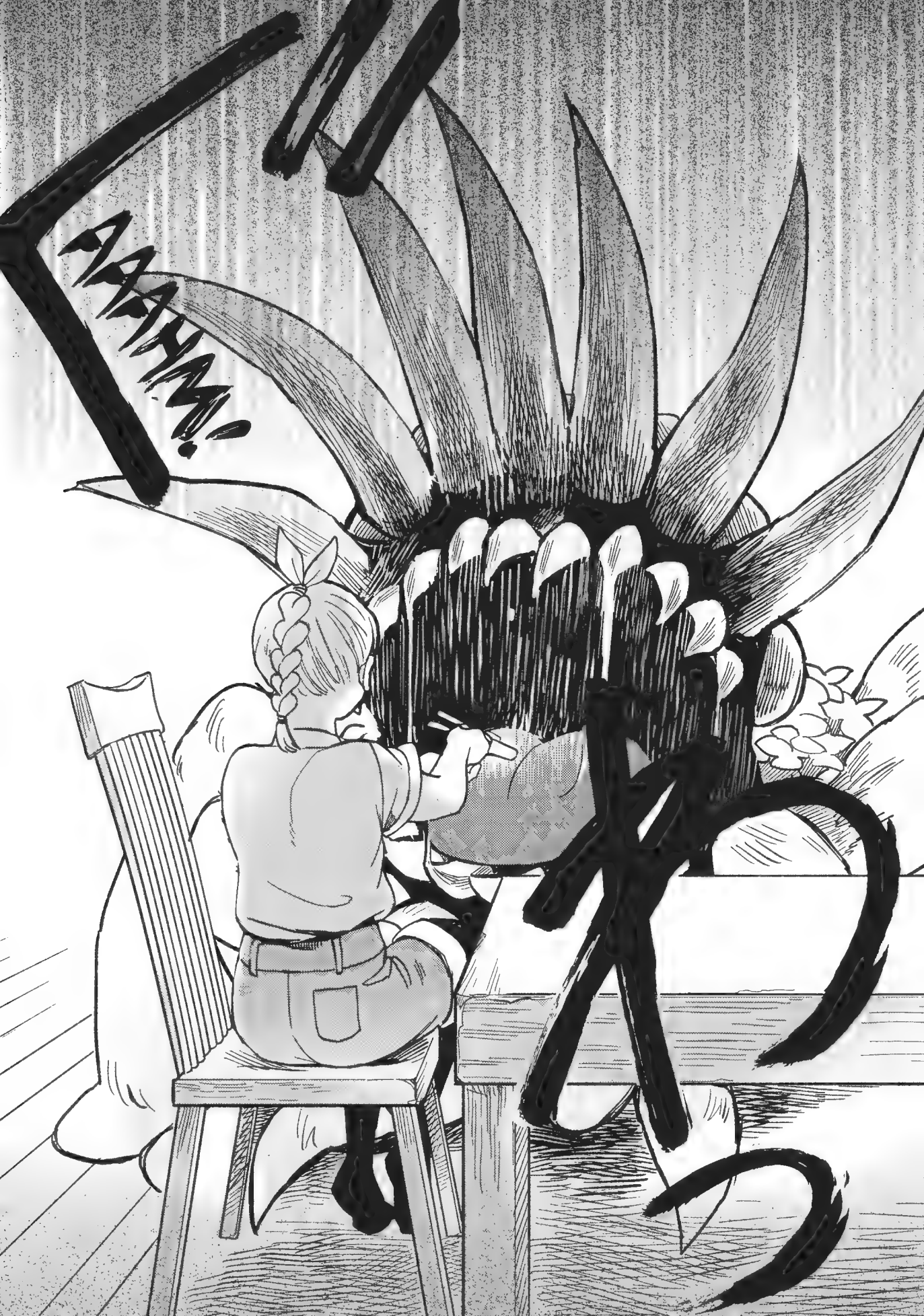

NOM

NOM

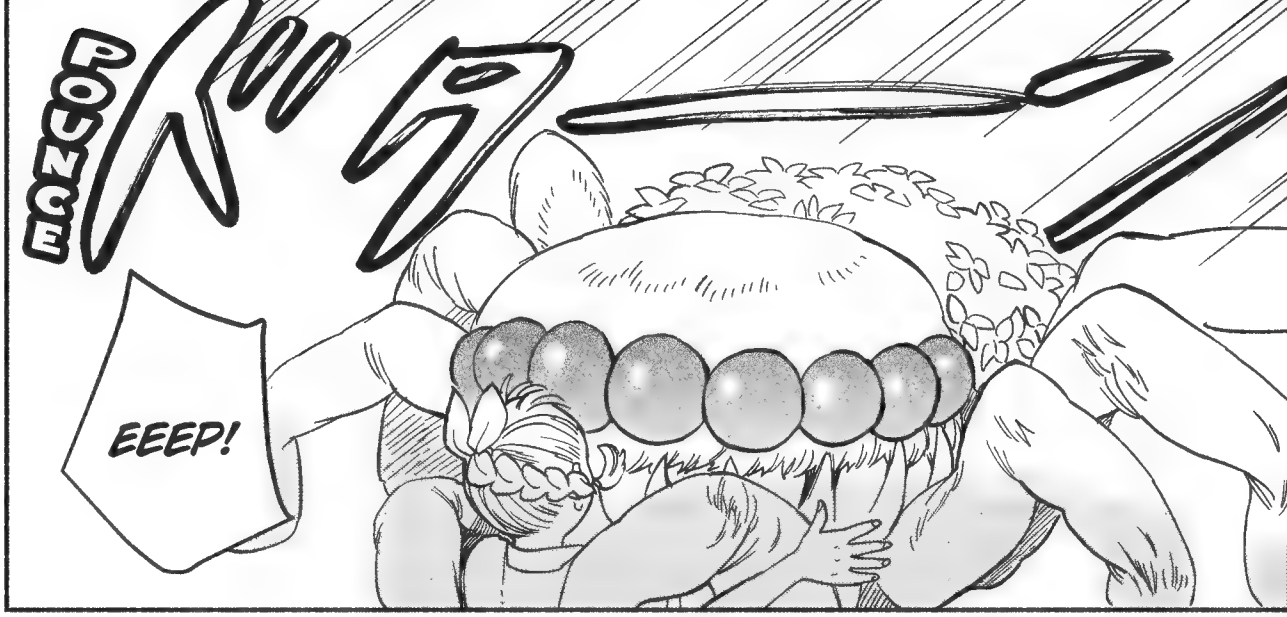
I HAVE SOME FILLING LEFT OVER, TOO.
I'LL MAKE IT INTO A SOUP FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
It'll be easy! I'll add some milk, soup stock, and a bit of salt, then heat it up!

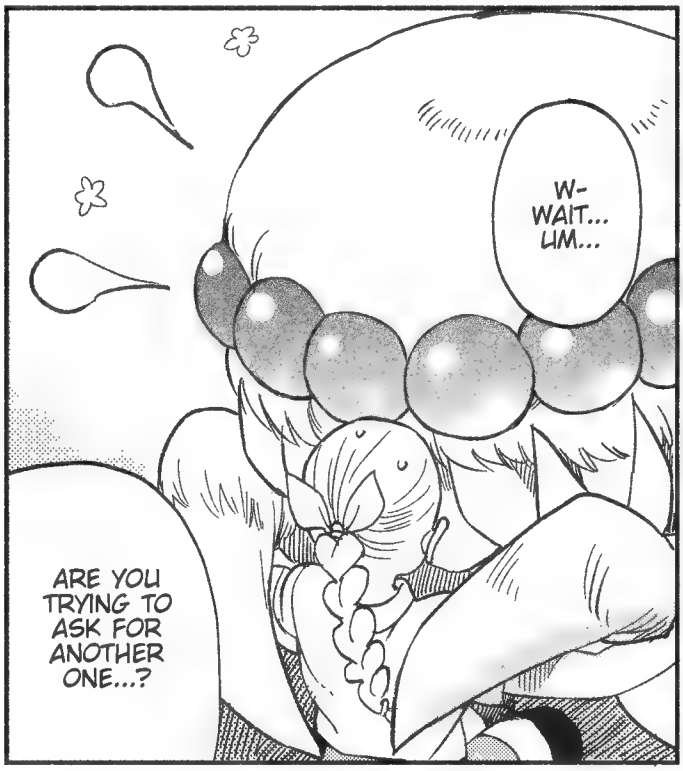

CHEW
GULP!
CHEW

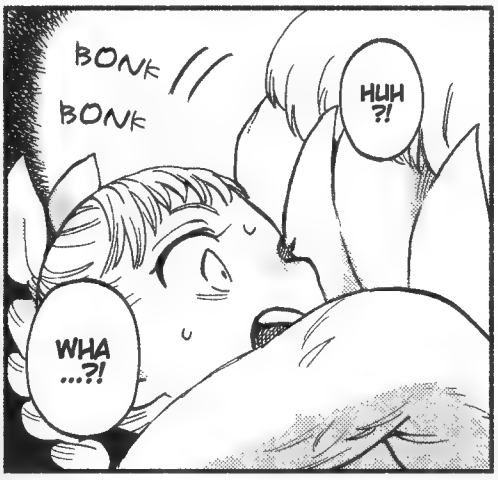

SWFF...
WANT TO TRY ONE?
HERE.
Say "aah."
OHF
OHF

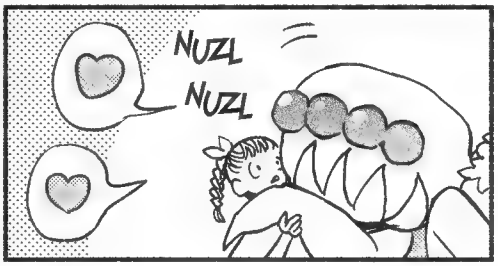

AAAHM!

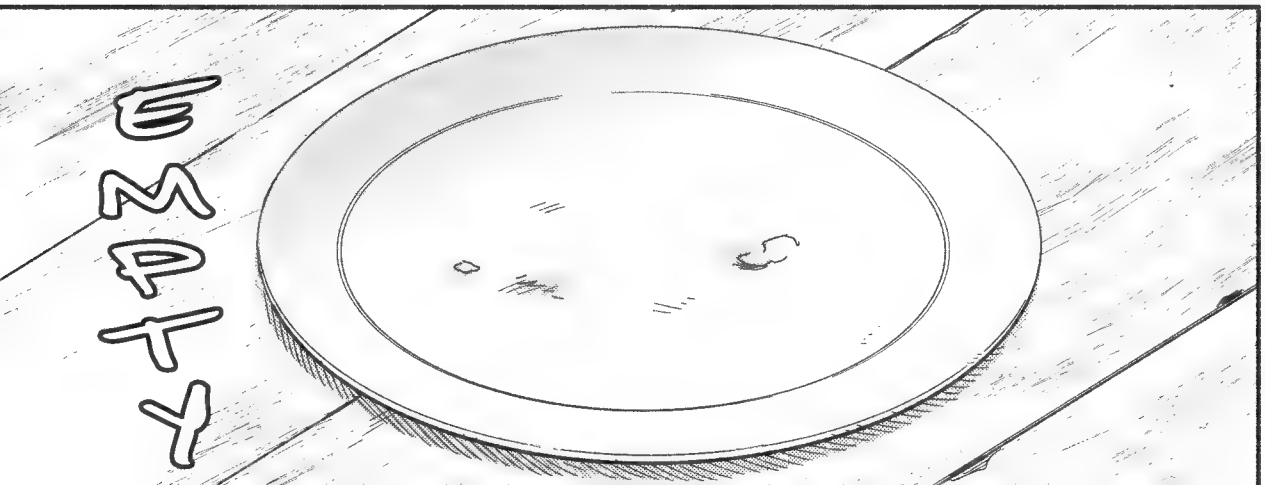
CHOMP
STUNNED
!
MNCH
MNCH
GULP!
ZWOOSH


BONQUE
EEEP!

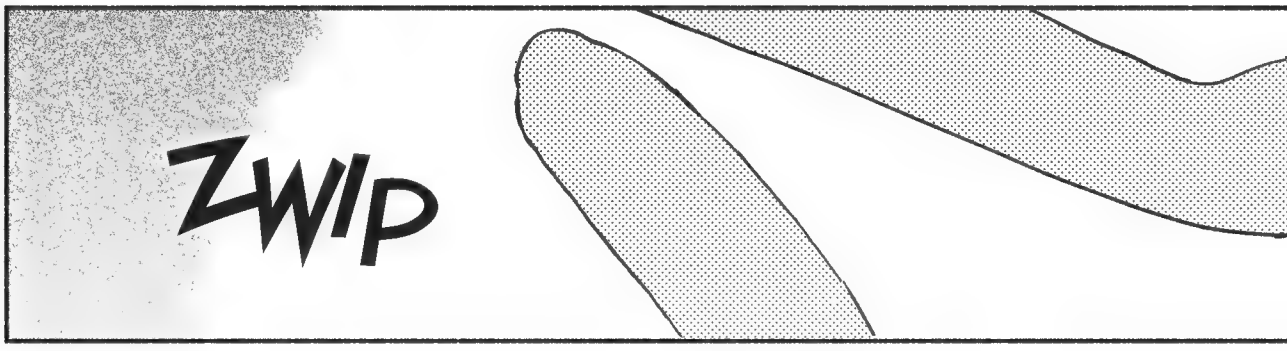

W-
WAIT...
UM...
ARE YOU TRYING TO ASK FOR ANOTHER ONE...?

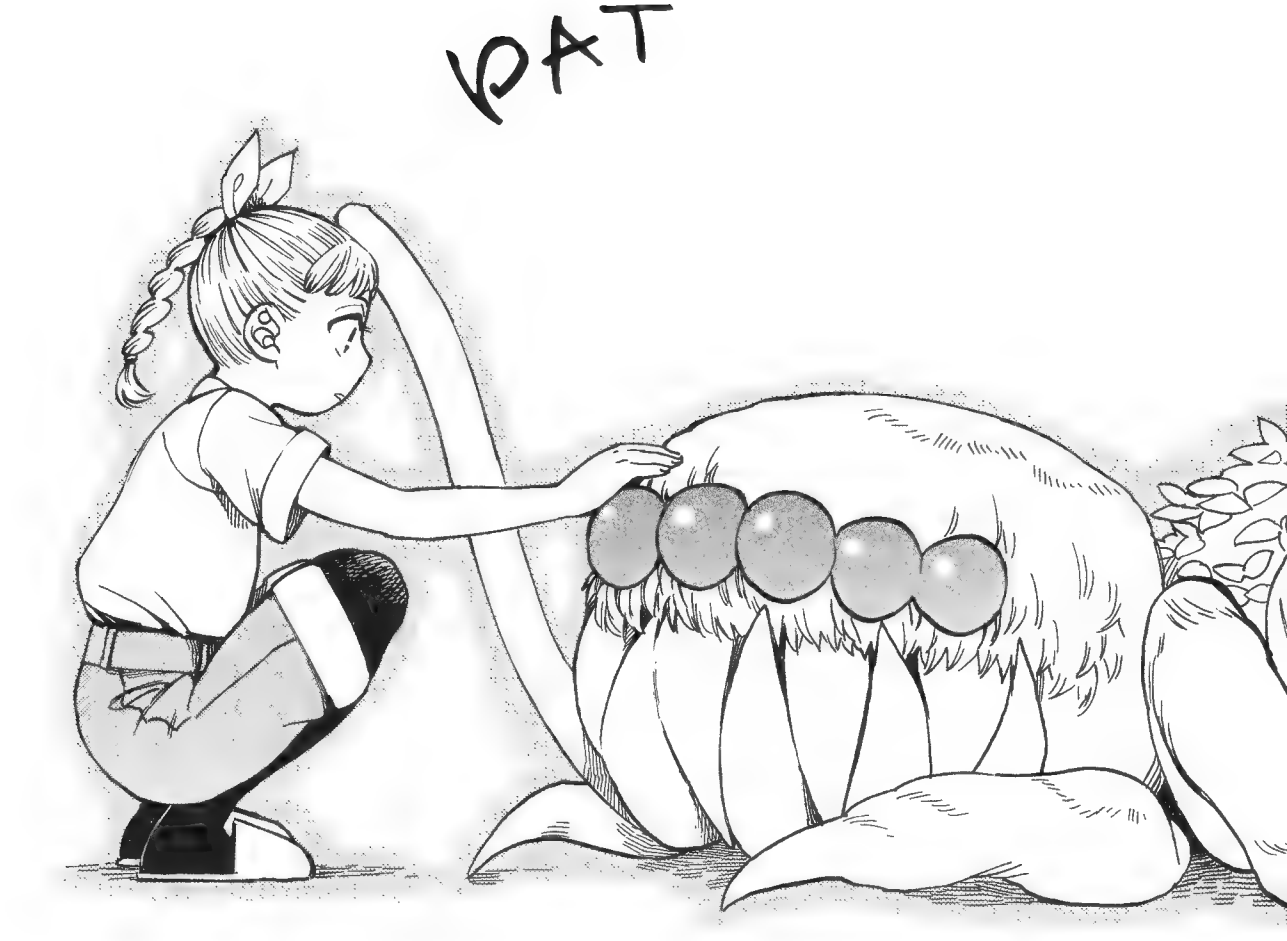

BONK
BONK
HUH ?!
WHA ...?!

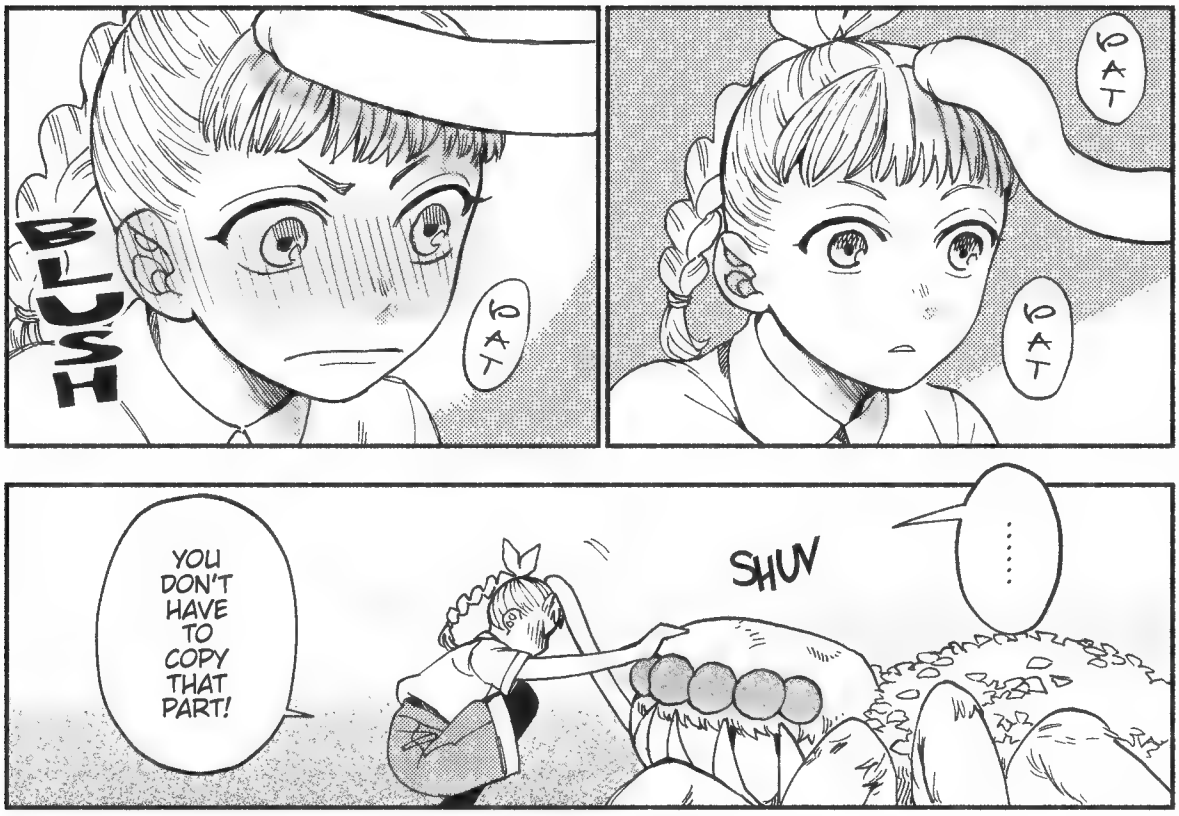

NUZL
NUZL

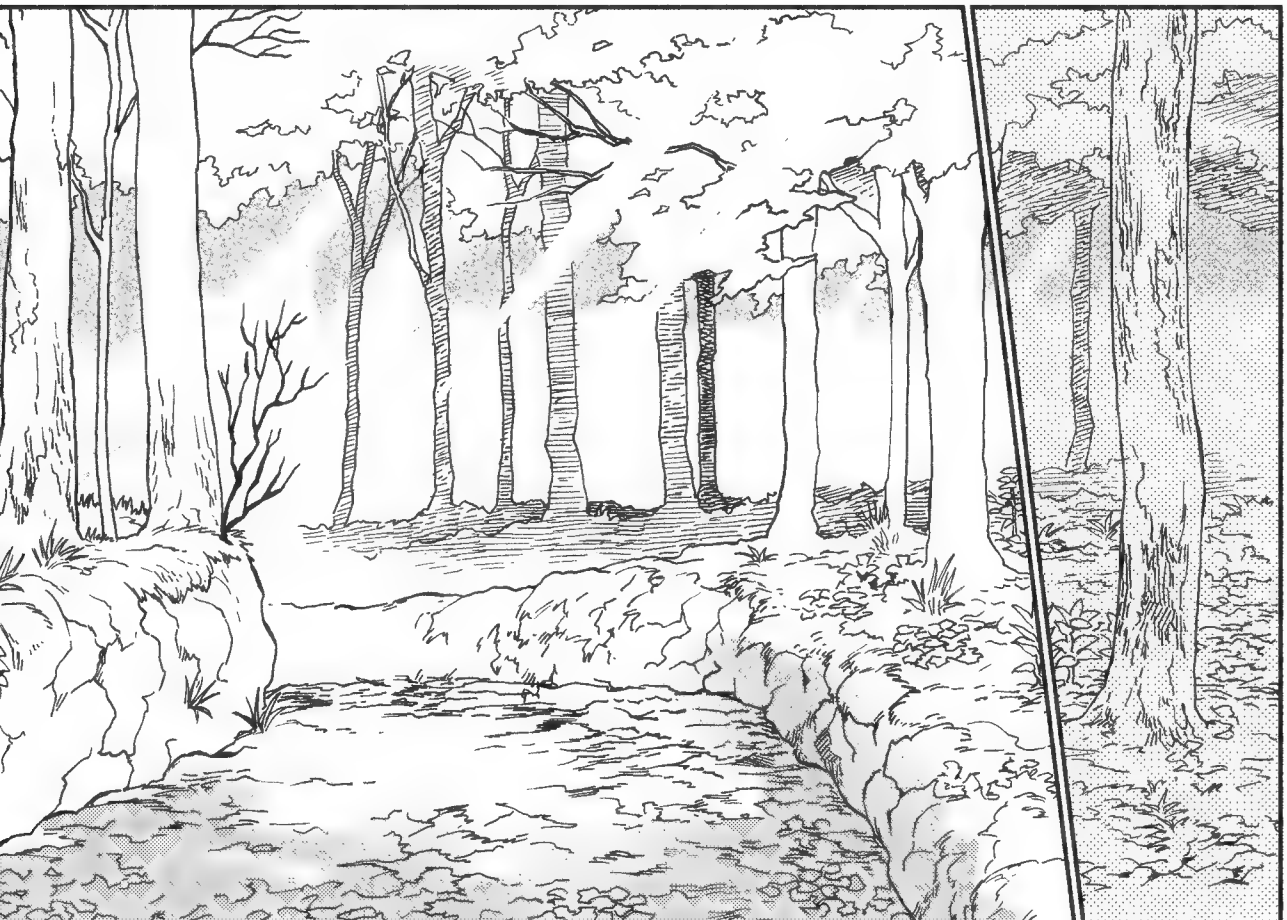

EMPTY

YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN AN AWFULLY LONG TIME SINCE...
I GOT TO WATCH SOMEONE CLEAN THEIR PLATE.
.....
BURP
?
PAT
PAT

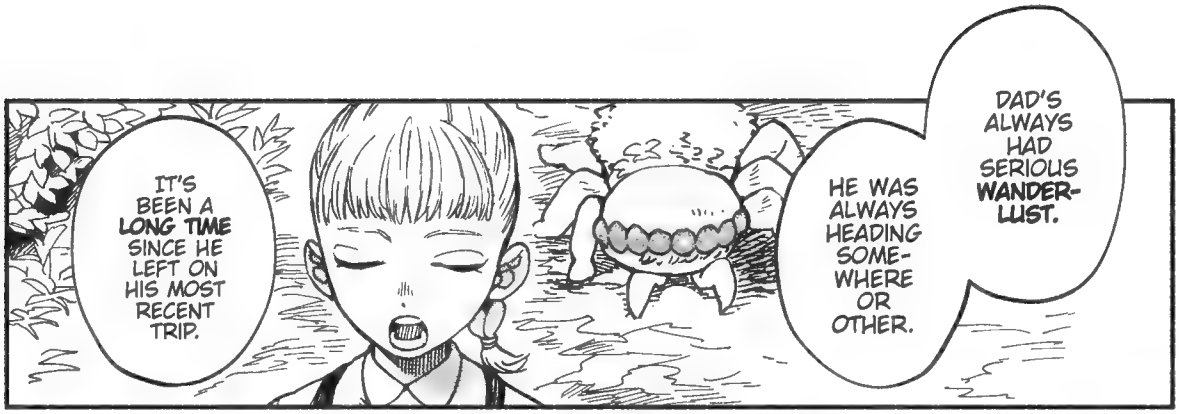

ZWIP


PAT


BLUSH
EAT
EAT
EAT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COPY THAT PART!
SHUV
.....

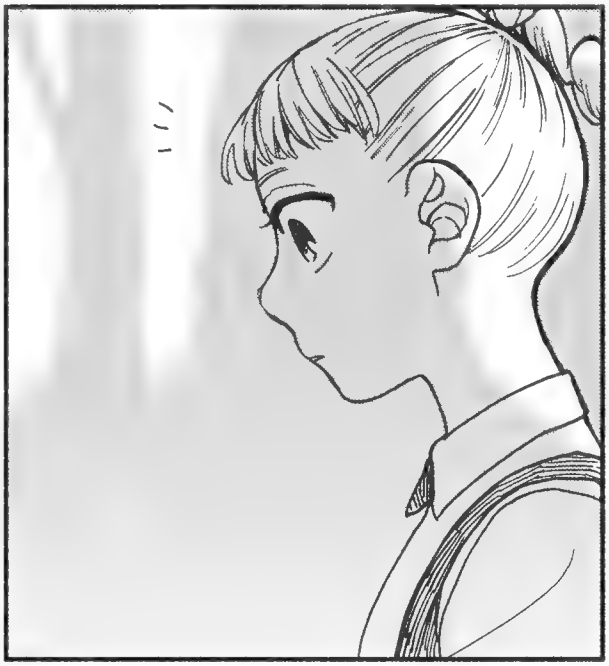


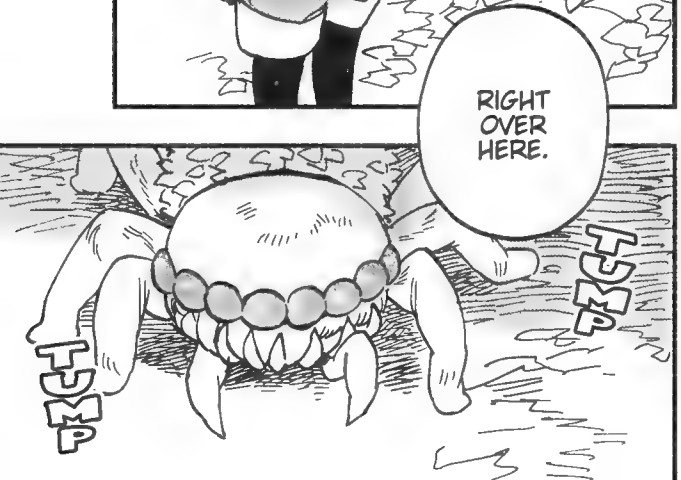
TUMP
TUMP
GLANCE
I'VE BEEN...
LIVING IN THE HOUSE WHILE I WAIT FOR MY DAD TO COME BACK.

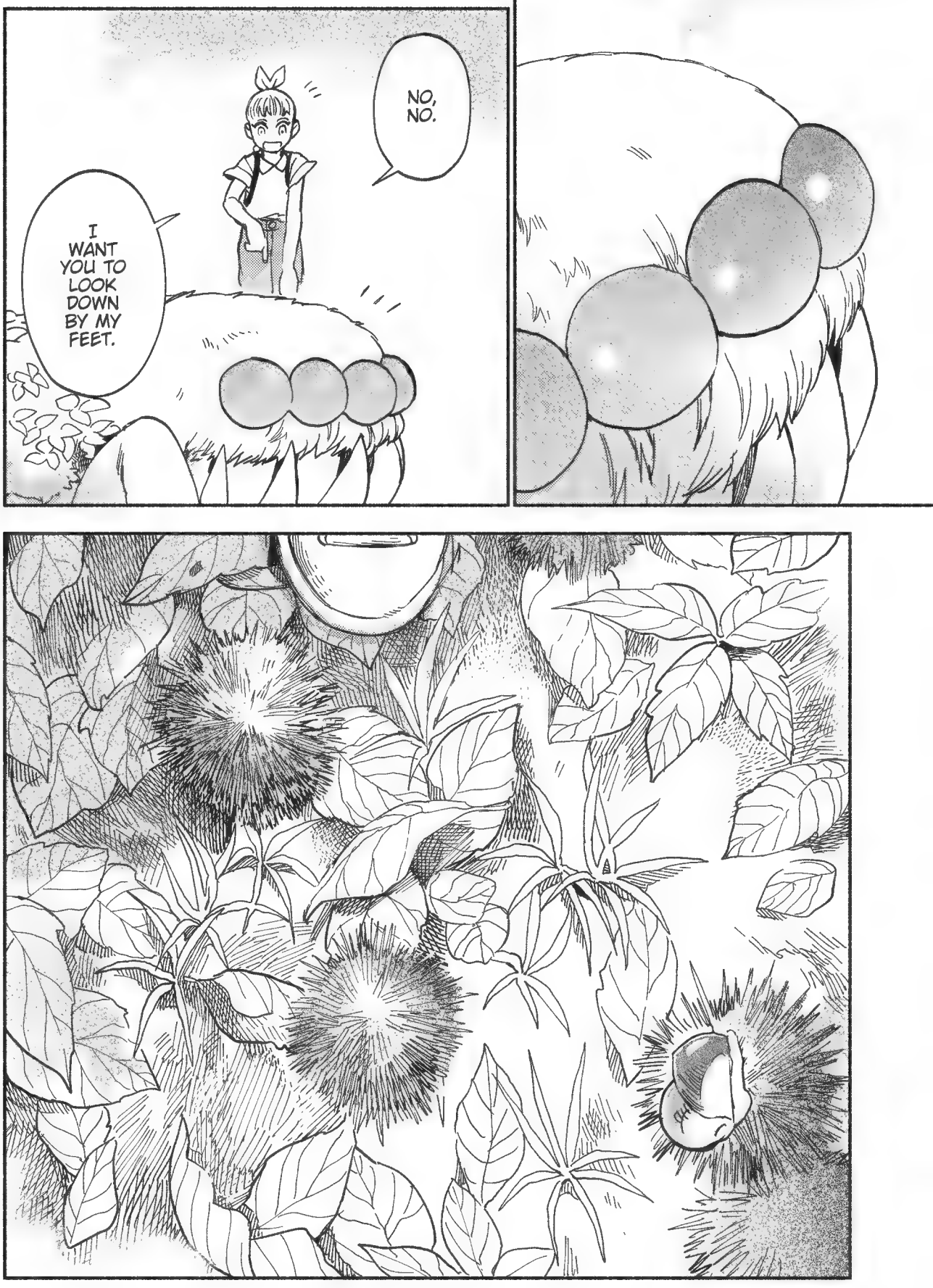

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HE LEFT ON HIS MOST RECENT TRIP.
HE WAS ALWAYS HEADING SOME-WHERE OR OTHER.
DAD'S ALWAYS HAD SERIOUS WANDER-LUST.

HEY.
COME HERE A MINUTE.

FOR THE FIRST LITTLE WHILE AFTER HE LEFT...
HE SENT ME SEEDS FROM WHATEVER INTERESTING FRUIT OR VEGGIES HE FOUND, BUT THAT GOT LESS FREQUENT, AND NOW...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

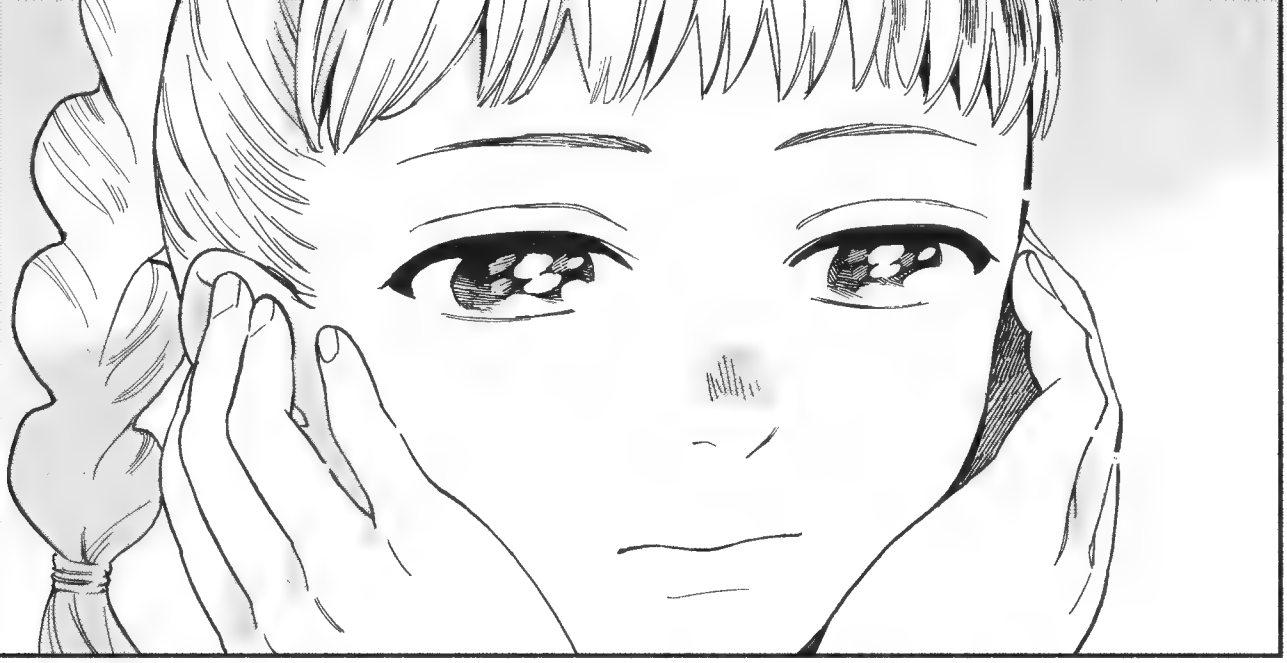


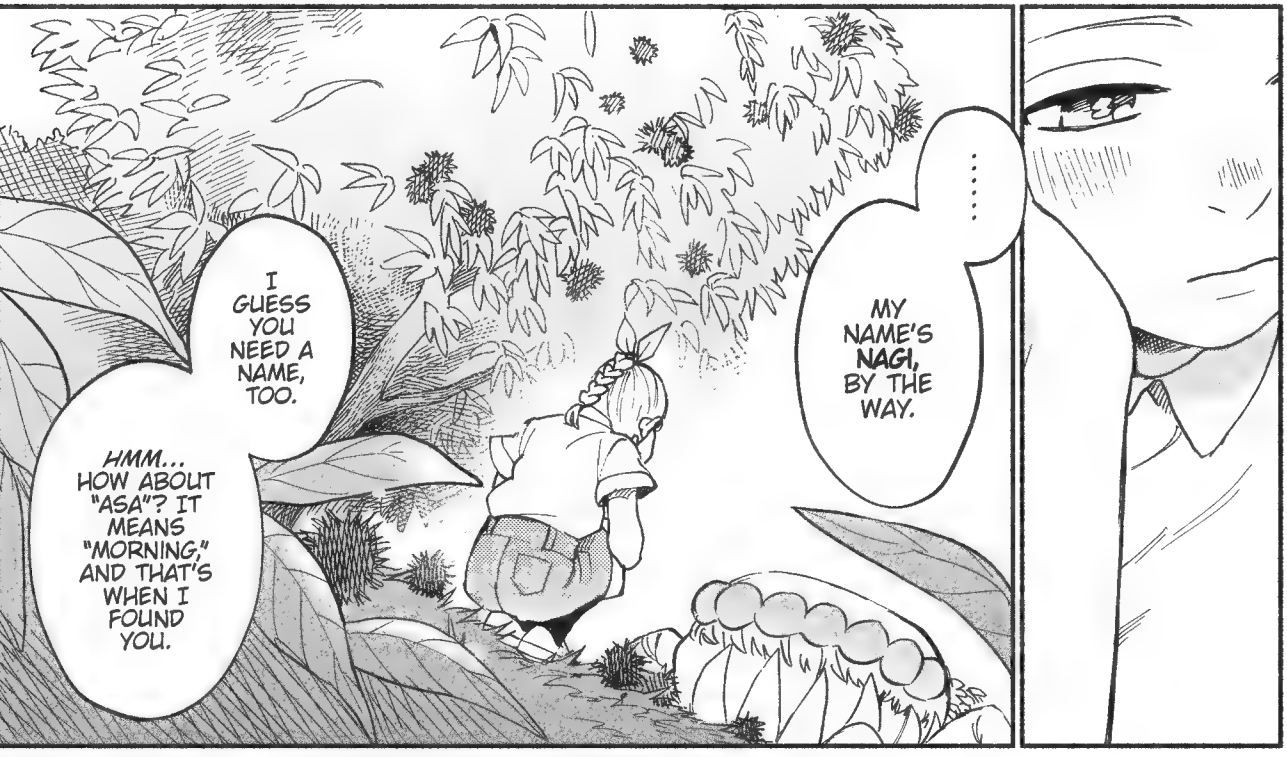

RIGHT OVER HERE.
TUMP
TUMP


NO, NO.
I WANT YOU TO LOOK DOWN BY MY FEET.

THAT'S THE TASTE OF AUTUMN, RIGHT THERE ON THE GROUND.
AW.
I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO THIS TIME OF YEAR...
WHEN THESE FIRST START FALLING.
LOOKS LIKE AN ANIMAL GOT THIS ONE.

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE...
OR WHO YOU ARE...
OR WHAT ERA YOU LIVE IN, THE SEASONS JUST KEEP TURNING.
.....
MNCH MNCH
YOINK
NOM
AH--!
"YOU'D BETTER BE QUICK, NAGI.
"OTHERWISE I'LL GET ALL THE CHESTNUTS BEFORE YOU."
POKE POKE




I GUESS YOU NEED A NAME, TOO.
HMM... HOW ABOUT "ASA"? IT MEANS "MORNING," AND THAT'S WHEN I FOUND YOU.
.....
MY NAME'S **NAGI,** BY THE WAY.

HEY, ASA?
THIS PROBABLY SEEMS KINDA **SUDDEN,** BUT...

WHY DON'T YOU COME LIVE WITH ME?

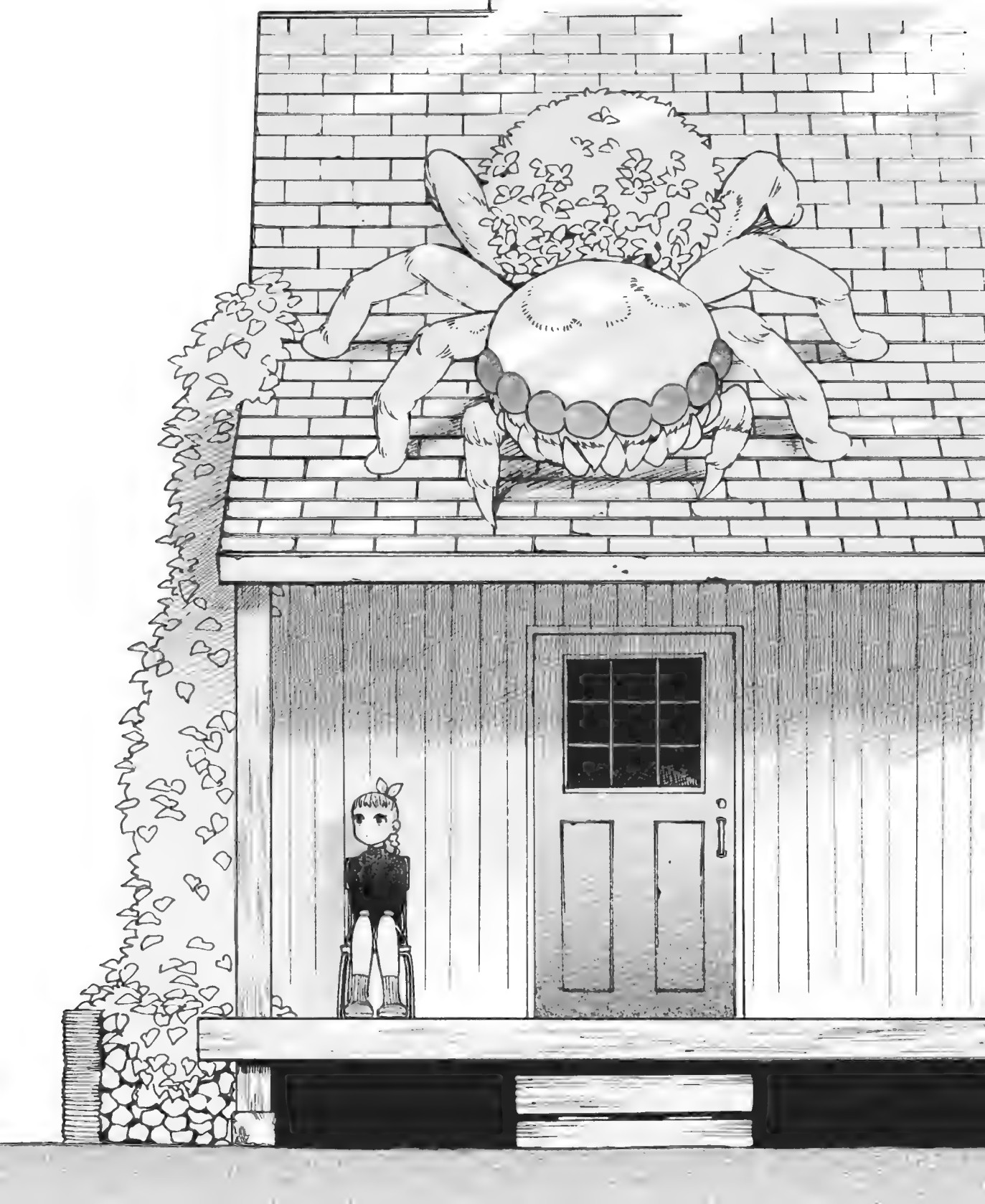
Giant Spider & Me

A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

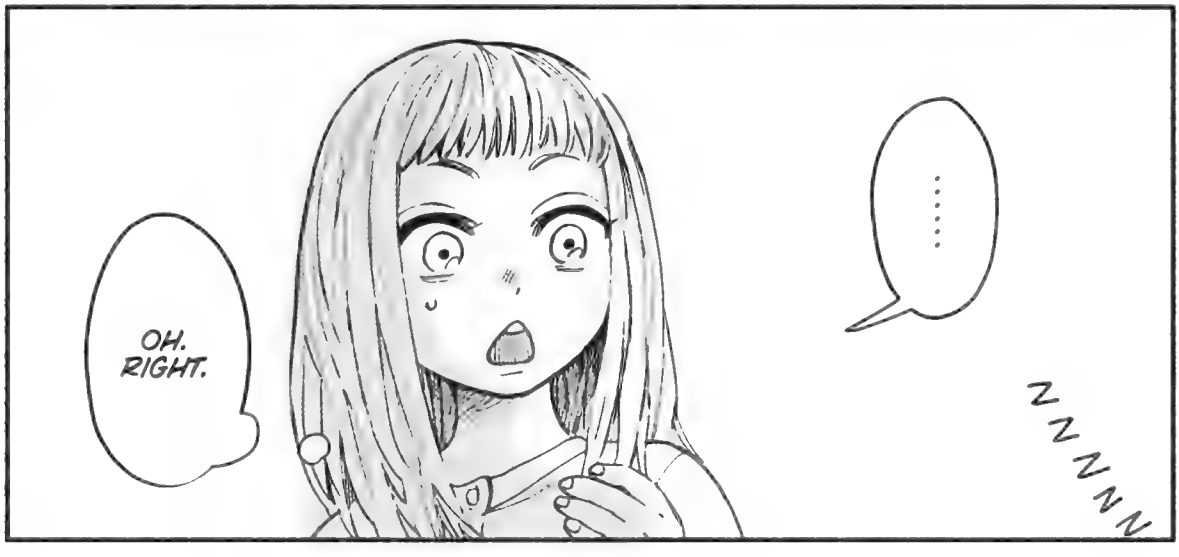
Giant Spider & Me

A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

Chapter 2: Running Errands & a Twist on Ratatouille

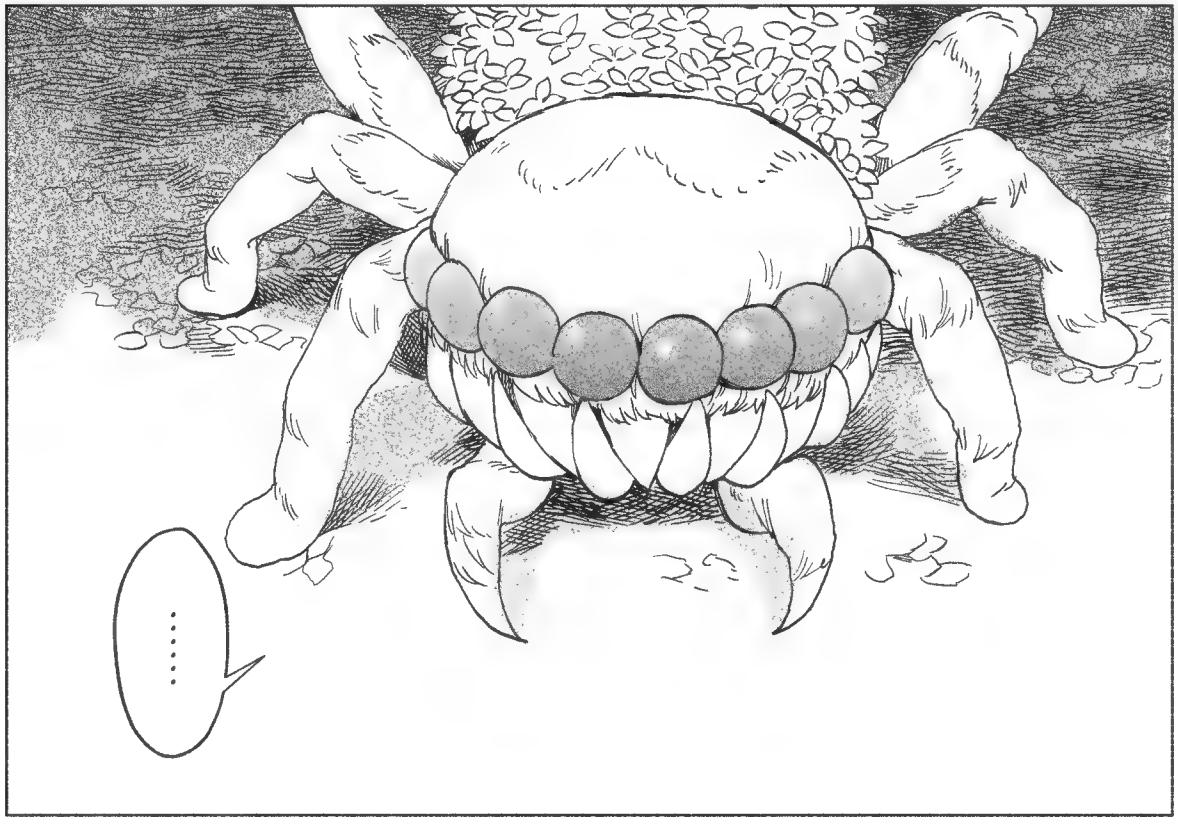


BOONG
BOONG
BOONG
ZZ
BLINK
BOONG
BOONG
CHIRP
CHIRP
SHWFF
YAAAWN!
MM, I SLEPT SO WELL...!
SHUFL
HMM?

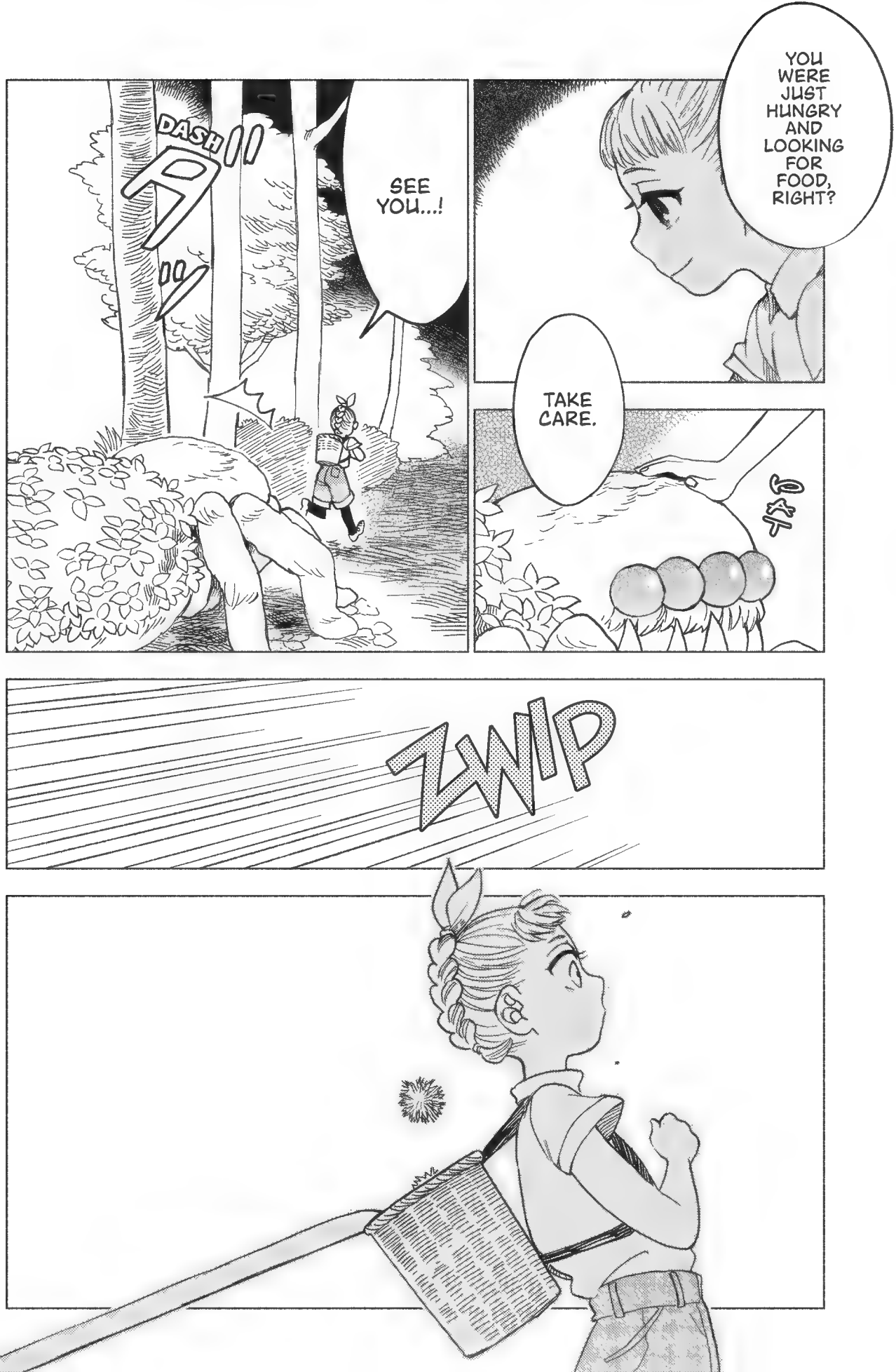

OH. RIGHT.
.....
ZZZZZZ

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I ASKED...
ZZZZZZN...

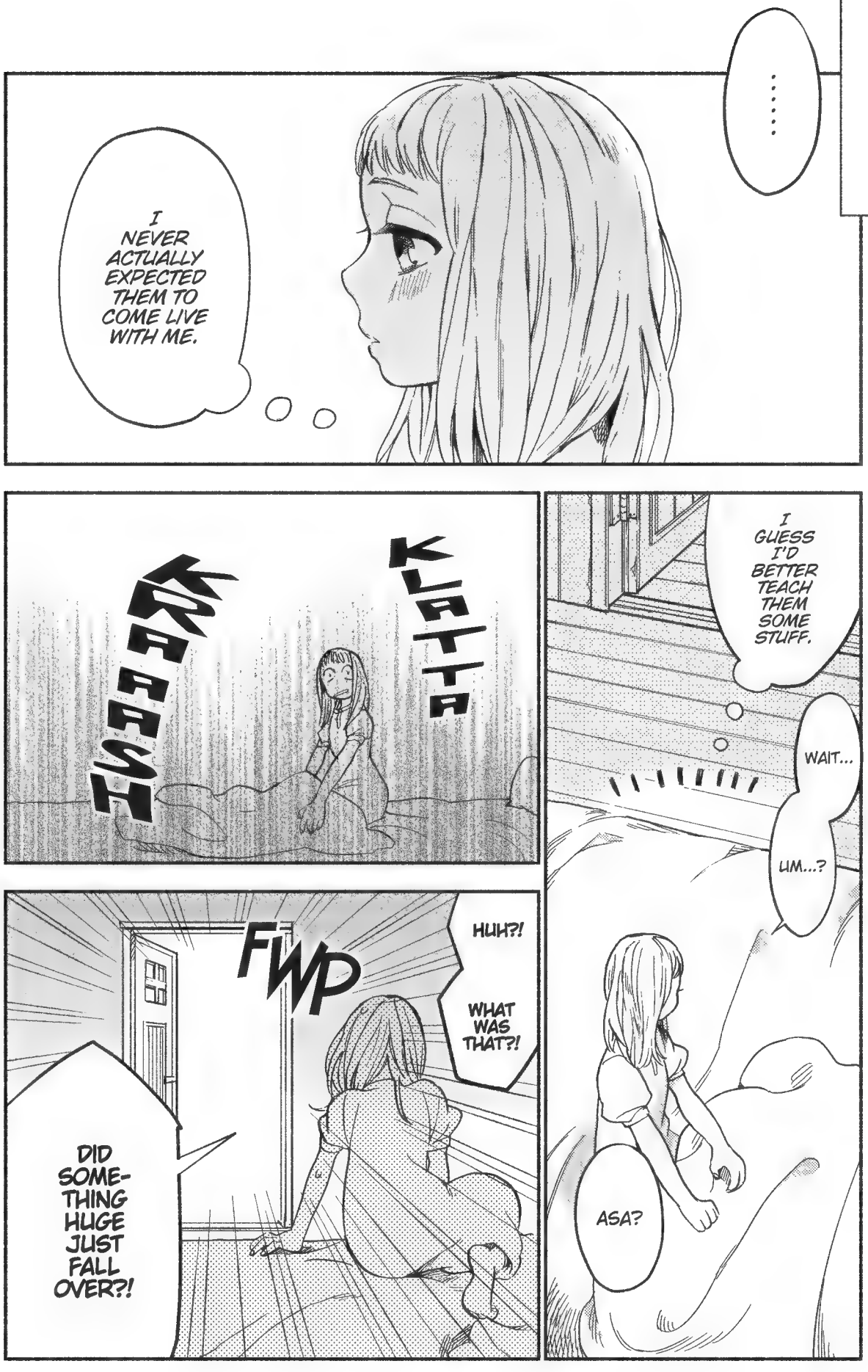
HEY, ASA?
THIS PROB-ABLY SEEMS KINDA SUDDEN, BUT...
WHY DON'T YOU COME LIVE WITH ME?

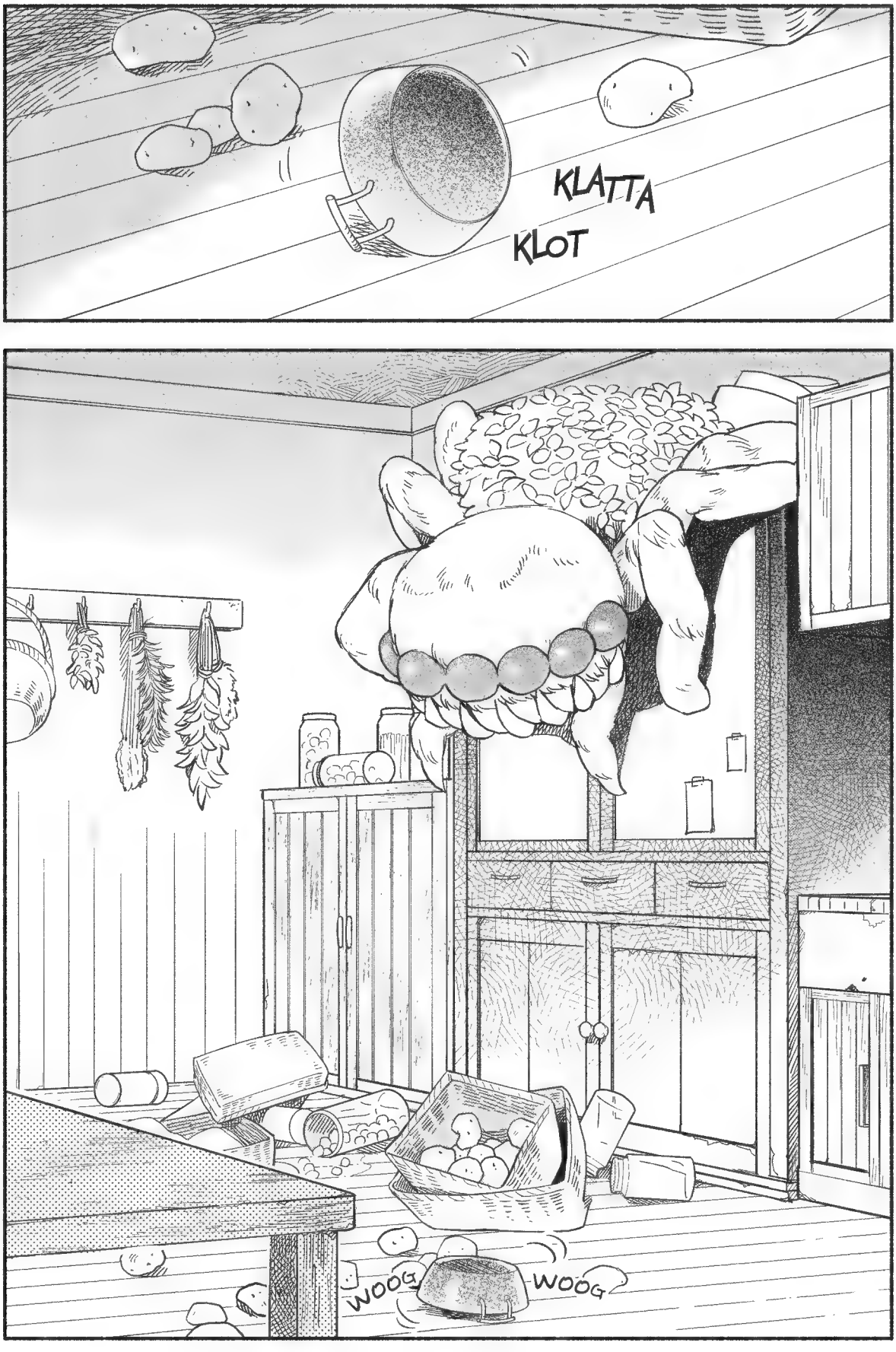

.....

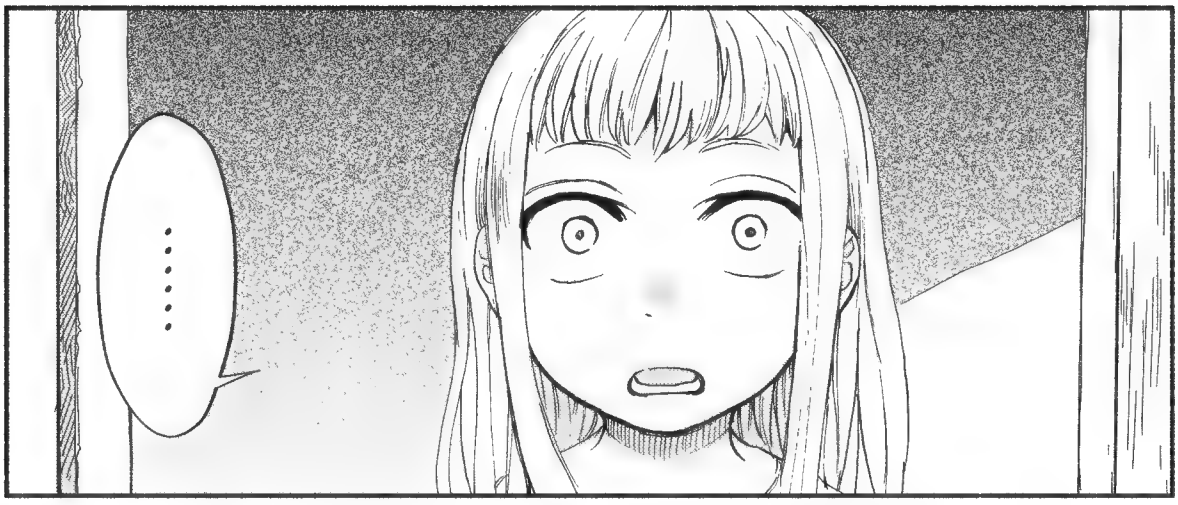
NOM
BLUUUSH
Obviously they can't understand me...
NOM
NOM
UH... RIGHT. NEVER MIND.
WHAT WAS I EVEN THINK-ING?
TOSS
TOSS
Hup!
Hup!
WELL, IT'S BEEN FUN.
clop
I THINK I'VE GOT ENOUGH CHESTNUTS, SO I'M HEADING HOME.

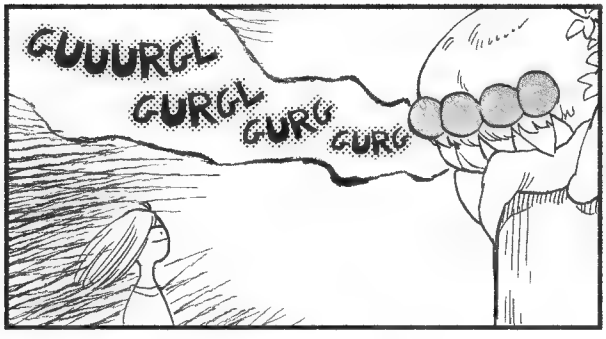

DASH!!
SEE YOU...!
YOU WERE JUST HUNGRY AND LOOKING FOR FOOD, RIGHT?
TAKE CARE.
ZWIP

TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
.....
YEAH. LET'S BOTH GO HOME.

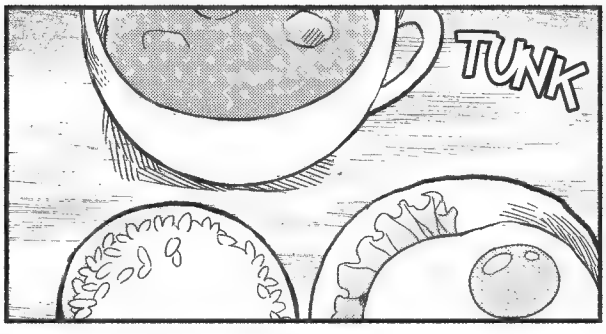

. . . . . .
I NEVER ACTUALLY EXPECTED THEM TO COME LIVE WITH ME.
. . .
KLATTA
KRAASH
I GUESS I'D BETTER TEACH THEM SOME STUFF.
WAIT...
UM...?
ASA?
FWP
HUH?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
DID SOME-THING HUGE JUST FALL OVER?!

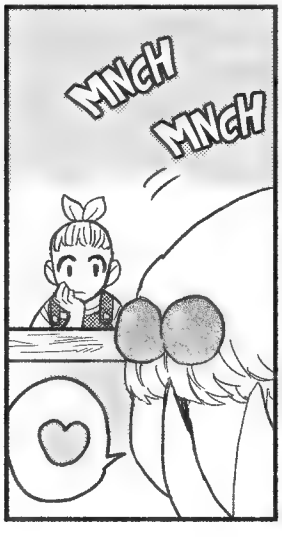

KLATTA
KLOT
WOOG
WOOG

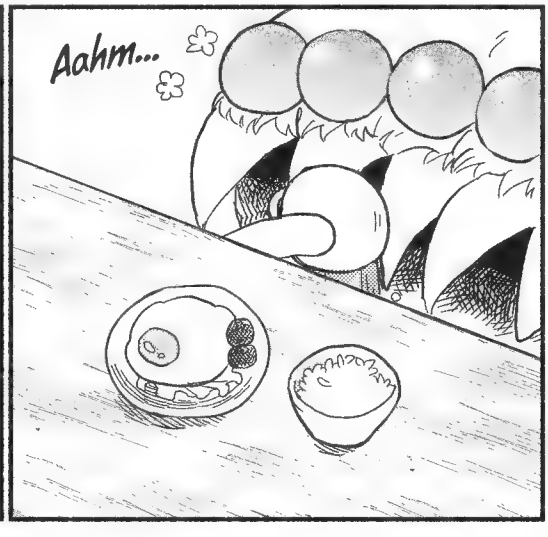

.....

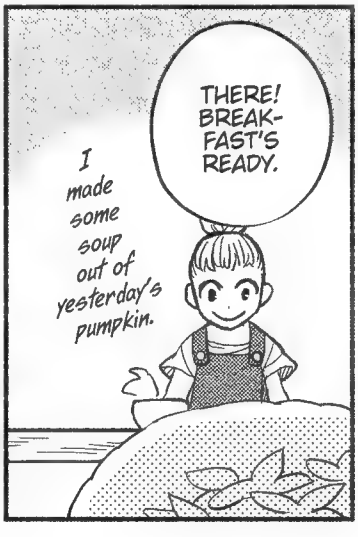

GUUURGL
GURGL
GURG
GURG

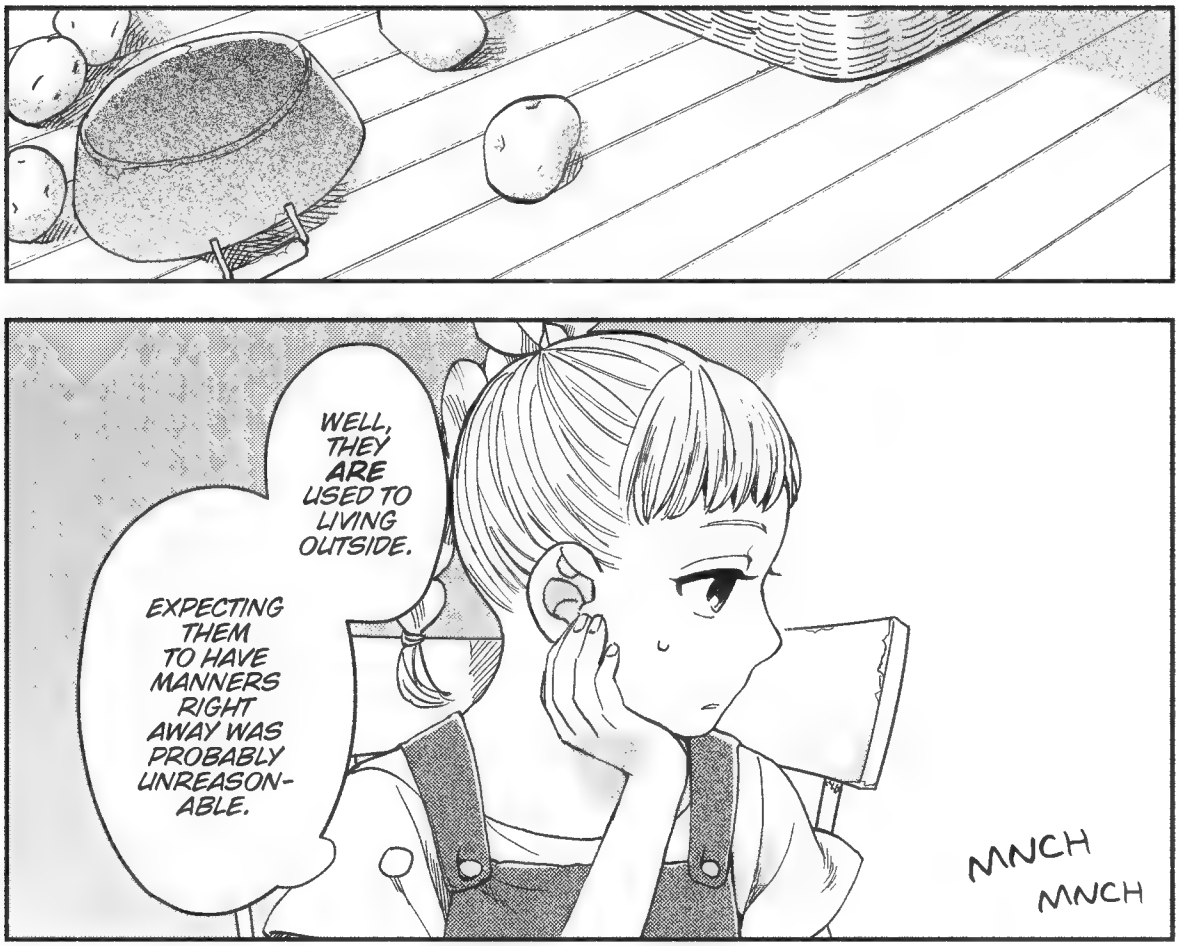
G-GOSH, YOU SURE ARE NIMBLE, HUH...?
Good morning, Asa.

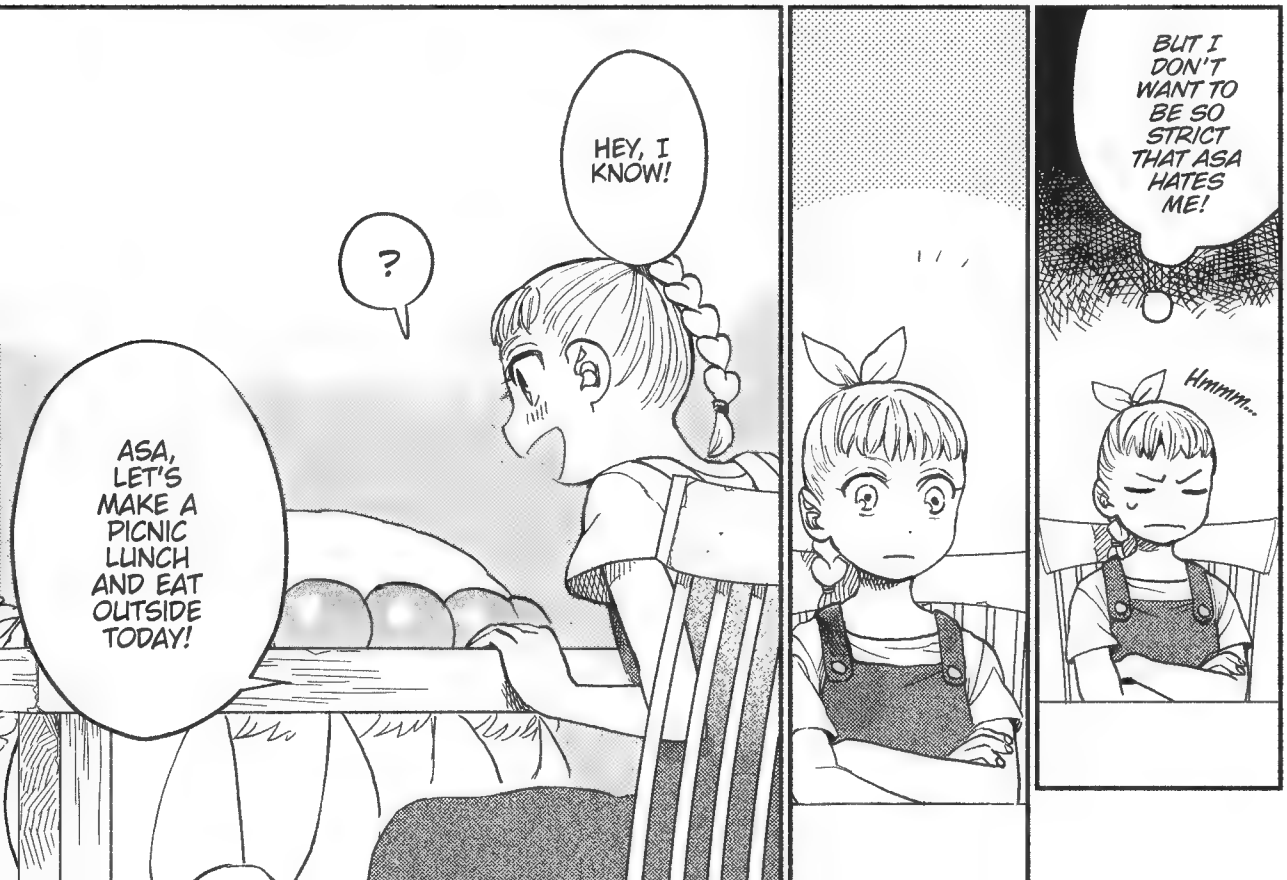

TUNK

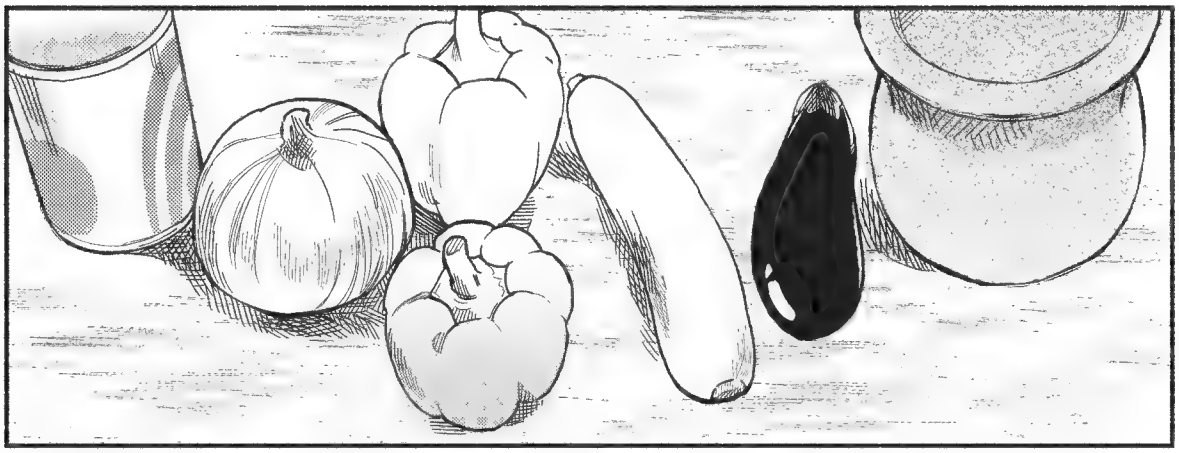

MNCH
MNCH


Aahm...

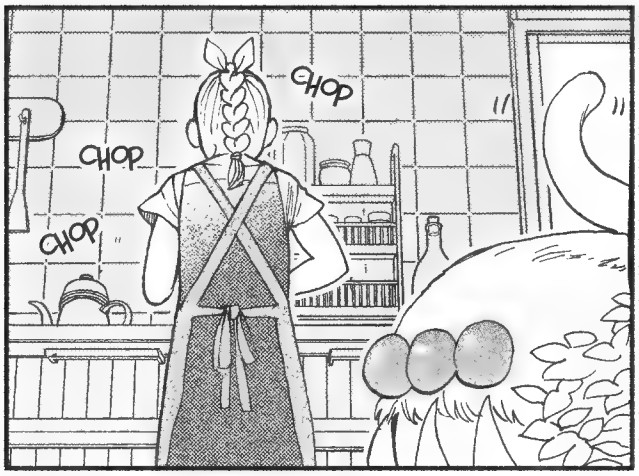

THERE! BREAK-FAST'S READY.
I made some soup out of yesterday's pumpkin.


WELL, THEY ARE USED TO LIVING OUTSIDE.
EXPECTING THEM TO HAVE MANNERS RIGHT AWAY WAS PROBABLY UNREASONABLE.
MNCH MNCH


ASA, LET'S MAKE A PICNIC LUNCH AND EAT OUTSIDE TODAY!
?
HEY, I KNOW!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE SO STRICT THAT ASA HATES ME!
Hmmm...



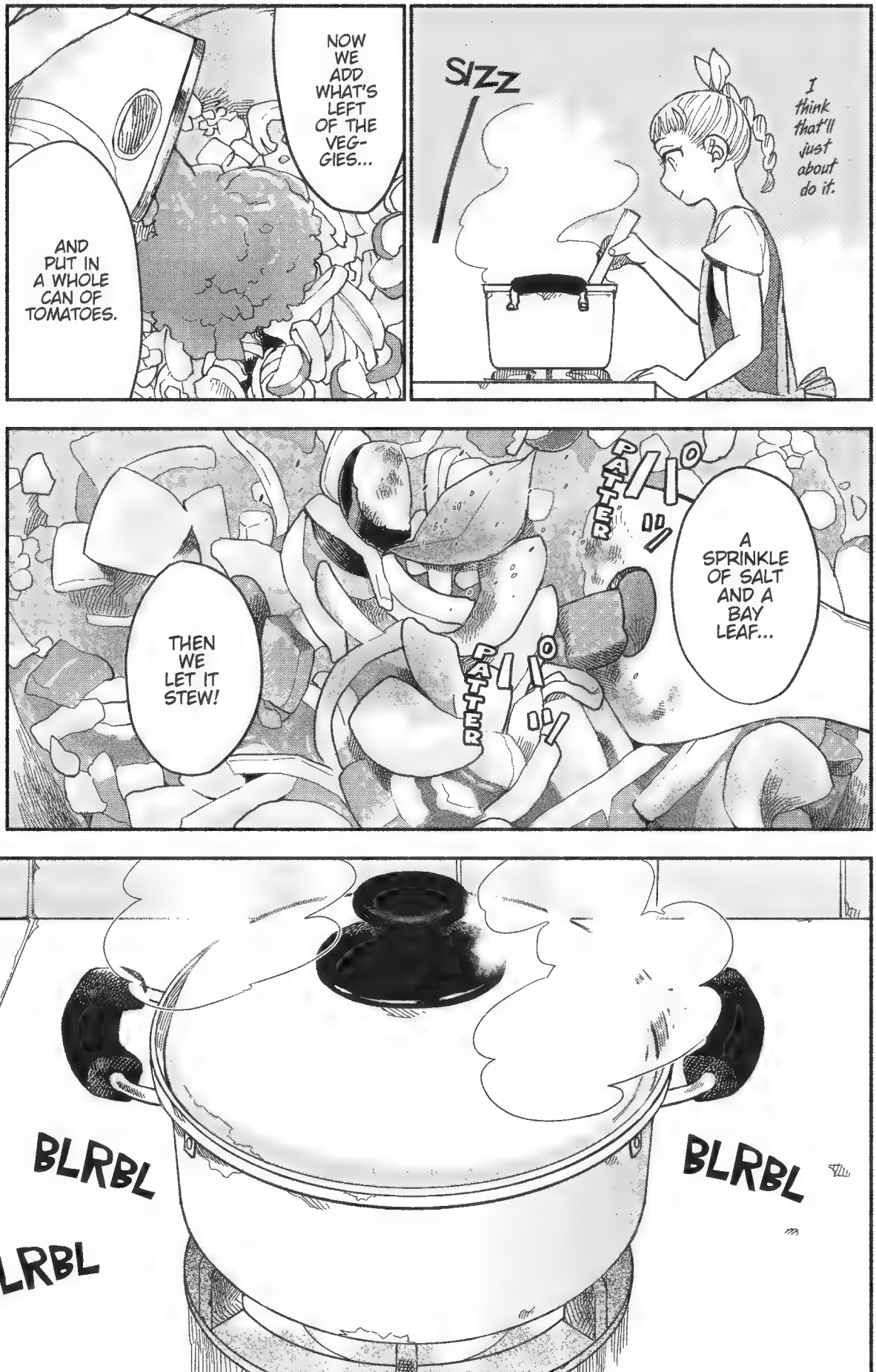
OKAY!
THIS IS IT FOR THE SUMMER VEGGIES, SO WE'LL GO OUT WITH A **BANG** AND USE THEM ALL UP!
Yeah!


CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

FIRST, LET'S MINCE HALF AN ONION AND A CLOVE OF GARLIC.
CHOP
CHOP

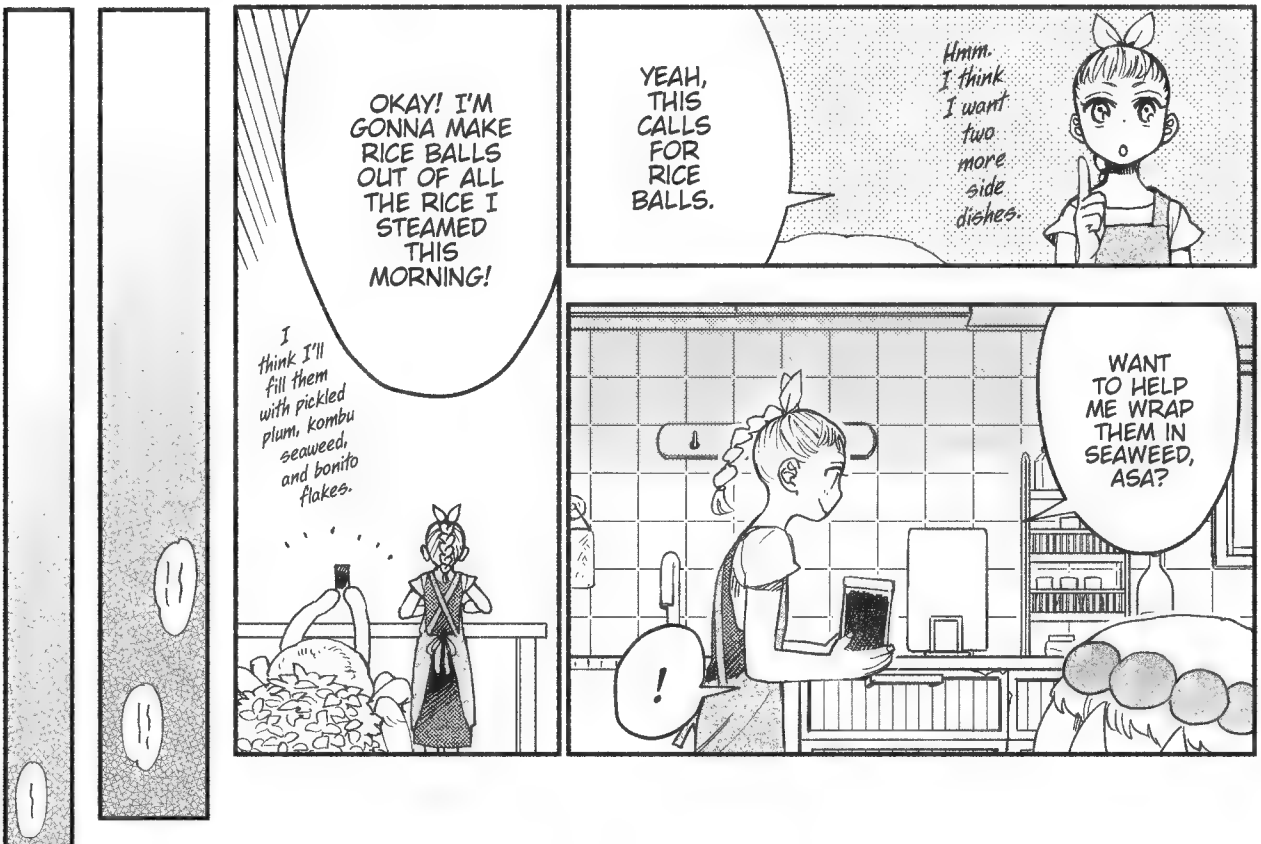
THE NEXT STEP IS STEWING THE VEGGIES!
BUT FIRST...
WE'RE GONNA FRY THE EGGPLANT IN A LITTLE OIL.
NOW WE'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE ONION, SOME BELL PEPPERS, EGGPLANT, AND A ZUCCHINI...
AND CUT THEM ALL UP INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES.
WHEN YOU LET EGGPLANT SOAK UP SOME OIL FIRST... MMM!
IT GETS SOFT ENOUGH TO PRACTICALLY MELT IN YOUR MOUTH!
WE'LL PUT ABOUT THREE TABLE-SPOONS OF OLIVE OIL IN A PAN AND HEAT IT UP.
THEN TILT THE PAN LIKE THIS, SO THE OIL'S ALL IN ONE PLACE, AND...
ADD THE EGG-PLANT!
PLOP

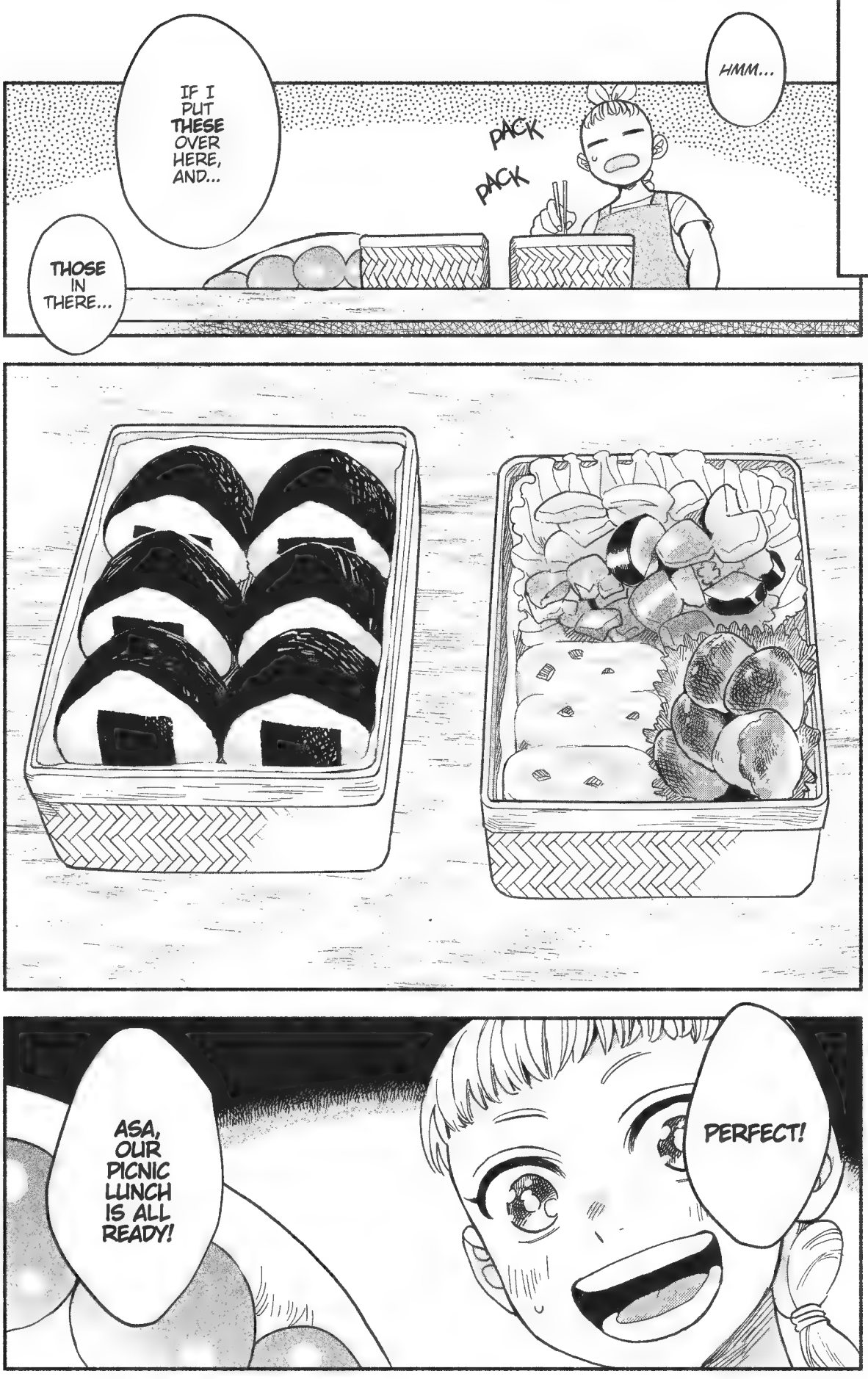
SKWEEK
ASA--?!
SINNNNN
FLINCH
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
COME ON BACK. IT'S SAFE.
I guess the loud noise startled you, huh?
.....
THEN WE ADD THE MINCED ONION AND GARLIC AND COOK THEM UNTIL THEY'RE TENDER!
SIZZLE
POUR IT INTO THE POT WE'LL BE STEWING THE VEGGIES IN.
OKAY, WE'LL TAKE ABOUT HALF OF THE OLIVE OIL WE JUST USED, AND...
KRAKL
KRAKL
THERE!

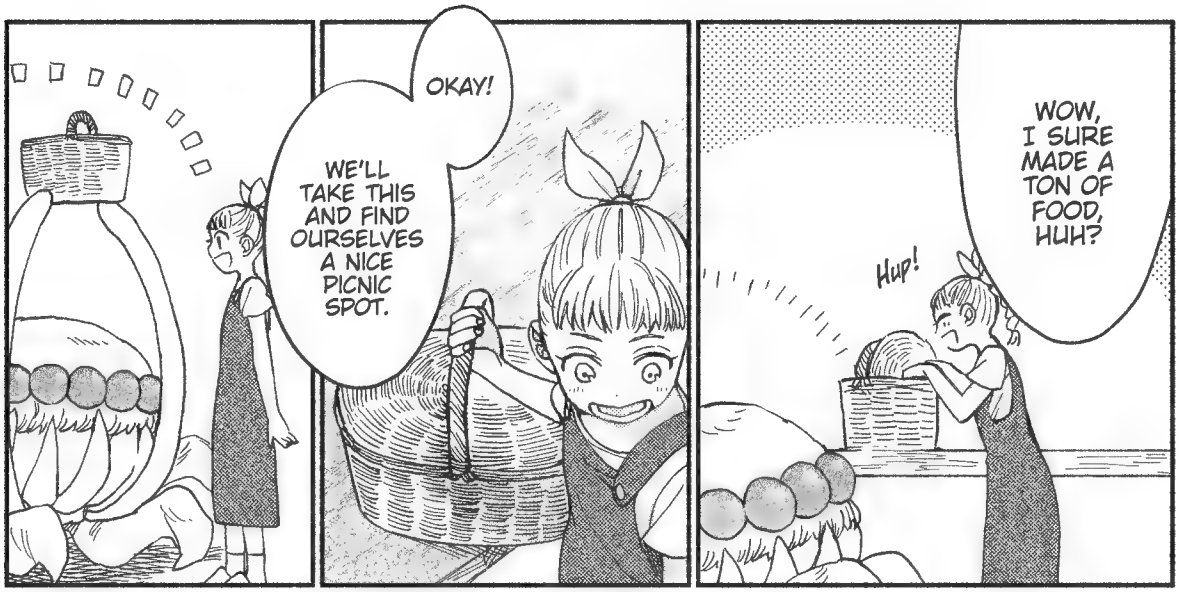

NOW WE ADD WHAT'S LEFT OF THE VEG-GIES...
AND PUT IN A WHOLE CAN OF TOMATOES.
SIZZ
I think that'll just about do it.
PATTER
PATTER
A SPRINKLE OF SALT AND A BAY LEAF...
THEN WE LET IT STEW!
BLRBL
BLRBL
BLRBL

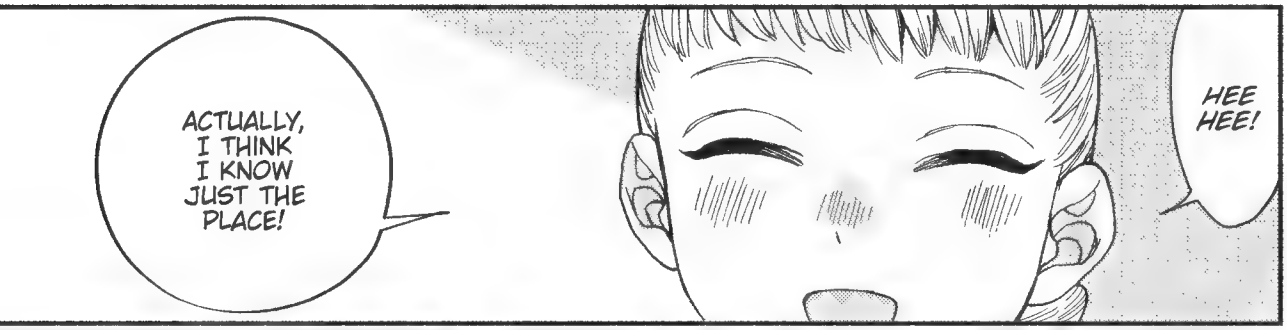
IT'S TIME TO DEPLOY THE LEGENDARY TREASURE OF JAPANESE CUISINE...
MISO PASTE!
BLRBL
BLRBL
ONCE THE VEGGIES ARE ALL TENDER...
THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS SEASON IT THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!
PUT
PUT
One heaping tablespoon is usually a good amount.
YUM! PERFECT!
NOM

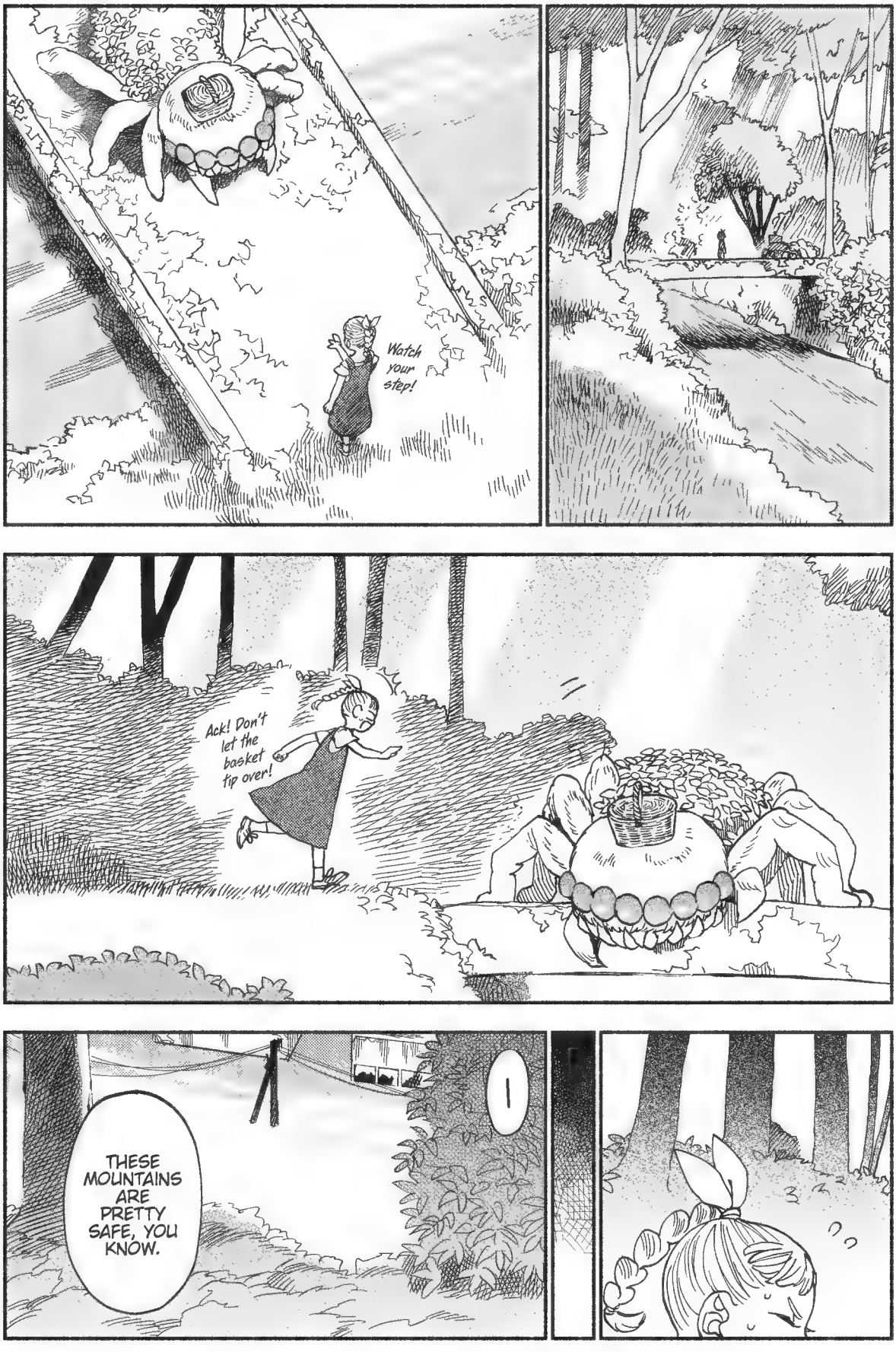
Japanese-Style Miso Ratatouille
TA-DA! IT'S DONE!
JAPANESE-STYLE RATATOUILLE WITH MISO PASTE!
INGREDIENTS (serves 8)
1 eggplant
1 onion
1 red and 1 yellow bell pepper
1/2 zucchini
1 clove garlic
400 grams canned tomatoes
1 bay leaf
1 tablespoon miso paste
3 tablespoons olive oil
a dash of salt

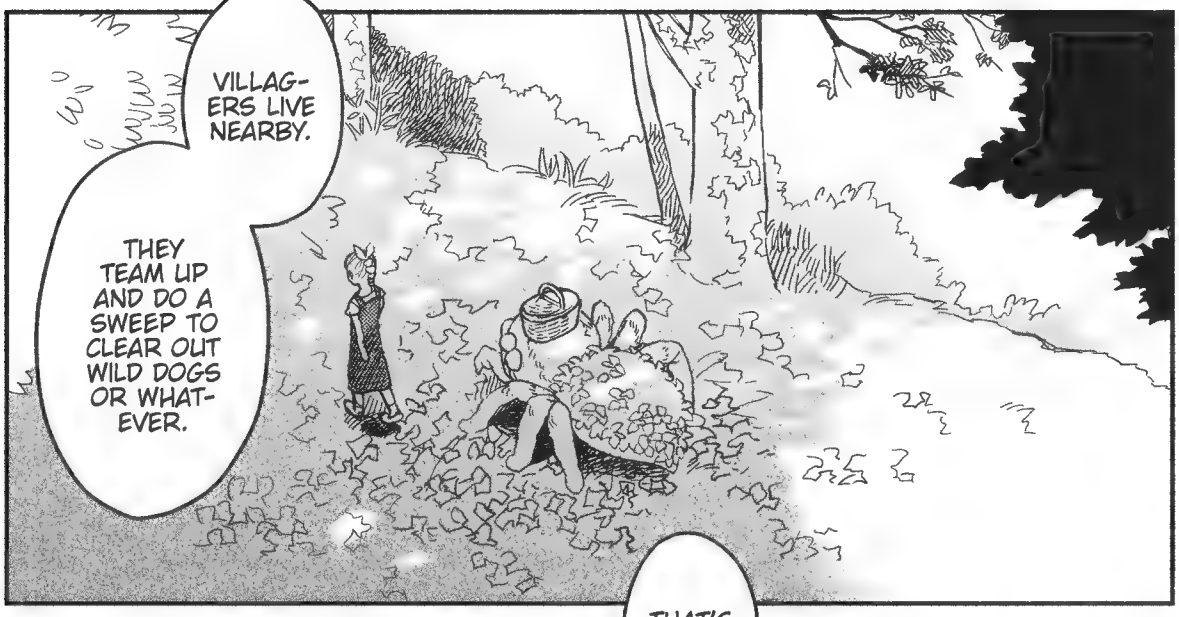

OKAY! I'M GONNA MAKE RICE BALLS OUT OF ALL THE RICE I STEAMED THIS MORNING!
I think I'll fill them with pickled plum, kombu seaweed, and bonito flakes.
YEAH, THIS CALLS FOR RICE BALLS.
Hmm. I think I want two more side dishes.
WANT TO HELP ME WRAP THEM IN SEAWEED, ASA?
!


IF I PUT THESE OVER HERE, AND...
HMM...
PACK
PACK
THOSE IN THERE...
ASA, OUR PICNIC LUNCH IS ALL READY!
PERFECT!

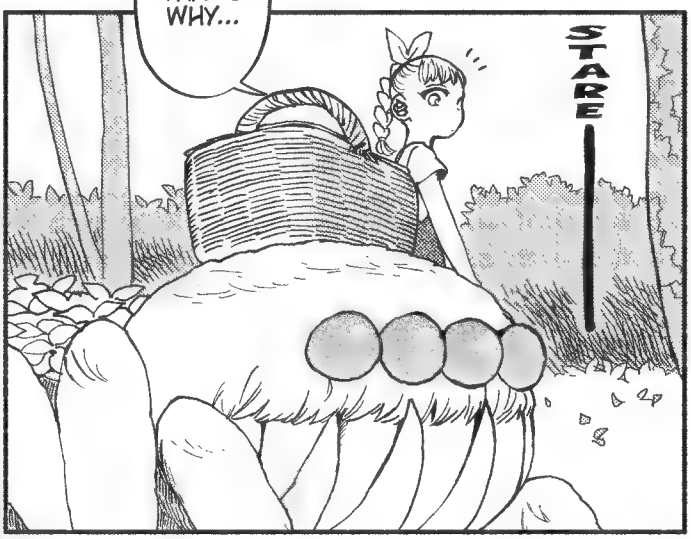

WOW, I SURE MADE A TON OF FOOD, HUH?
HUP!
OKAY!
WE'LL TAKE THIS AND FIND OURSELVES A NICE PICNIC SPOT.

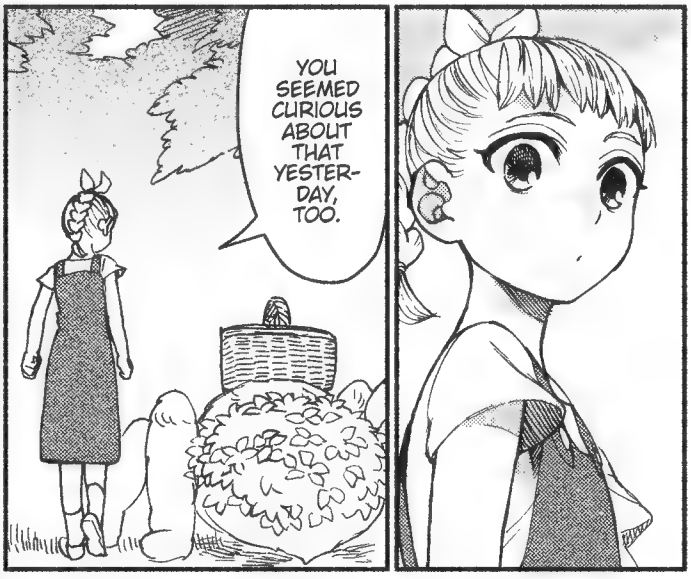

HEE HEE!
ACTUALLY, I THINK I KNOW JUST THE PLACE!


Watch your step!
Ack! Don't let the basket tip over!
THESE MOUNTAINS ARE PRETTY SAFE, YOU KNOW.
I


VILLAG-
ERS LIVE
NEARBY.
THEY
TEAM UP
AND DO A
SWEEP TO
CLEAR OUT
WILD DOGS
OR WHAT-
EVER.

I
DON'T
KNOW
TOO
MUCH
ABOUT
IT
EITHER.
THE
OLD
CITIES
WERE
FLOODED
BEFORE
I WAS
BORN.
APPARENTLY
WHEN MY
DAD WAS
LITTLE, THE
WORLD WAS
AMAZING.


THAT'S
WHY...
STARE


YOU
SEEMED
CURIOUS
ABOUT
THAT
YESTER-
DAY,
TOO.

THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE THEN THAN WE CAN EVEN IMAGINE NOW.
THEY ALL LIVED IN GIANT CITIES WITH HUGE BUILDINGS, PRACTICALLY ON TOP OF EACH OTHER.
THERE WERE THINGS HAPPENING CONSTANT-LY...
LIKE NO ONE EVER SLEPT. IF YOU LOOKED AT THE CITIES AT NIGHT, THEY LOOKED LIKE RIVERS OF STARS.
THAT'S WHAT DAD TOLD ME, ANYWAY.
BUT...
ONE DAY, IT ALL JUST... ENDED.

ASA, WE'RE HERE!
AHA!
.....

AH!

I-I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO SIT AND LOOK AT THE FLOWERS WHILE WE EAT!

WSH

UM!

LOOK AT ALL THE FLOWERS! THERE'RE EVEN *MORE* OVER HERE!

WOW--! I *KNEW* IT'D BE BEAUTIFUL HERE TODAY!

OOOOOOH!

That's it. Tug!
TUG
TUG
FWUF
Hup!
KA-POK
Lunch-time~!
FIDGET
FIDGET
Go on. Dig in!
HERE YOU GO!

FREEZE
GLEAM
GLEAM
AAAHM!
GRR...
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SNARL...

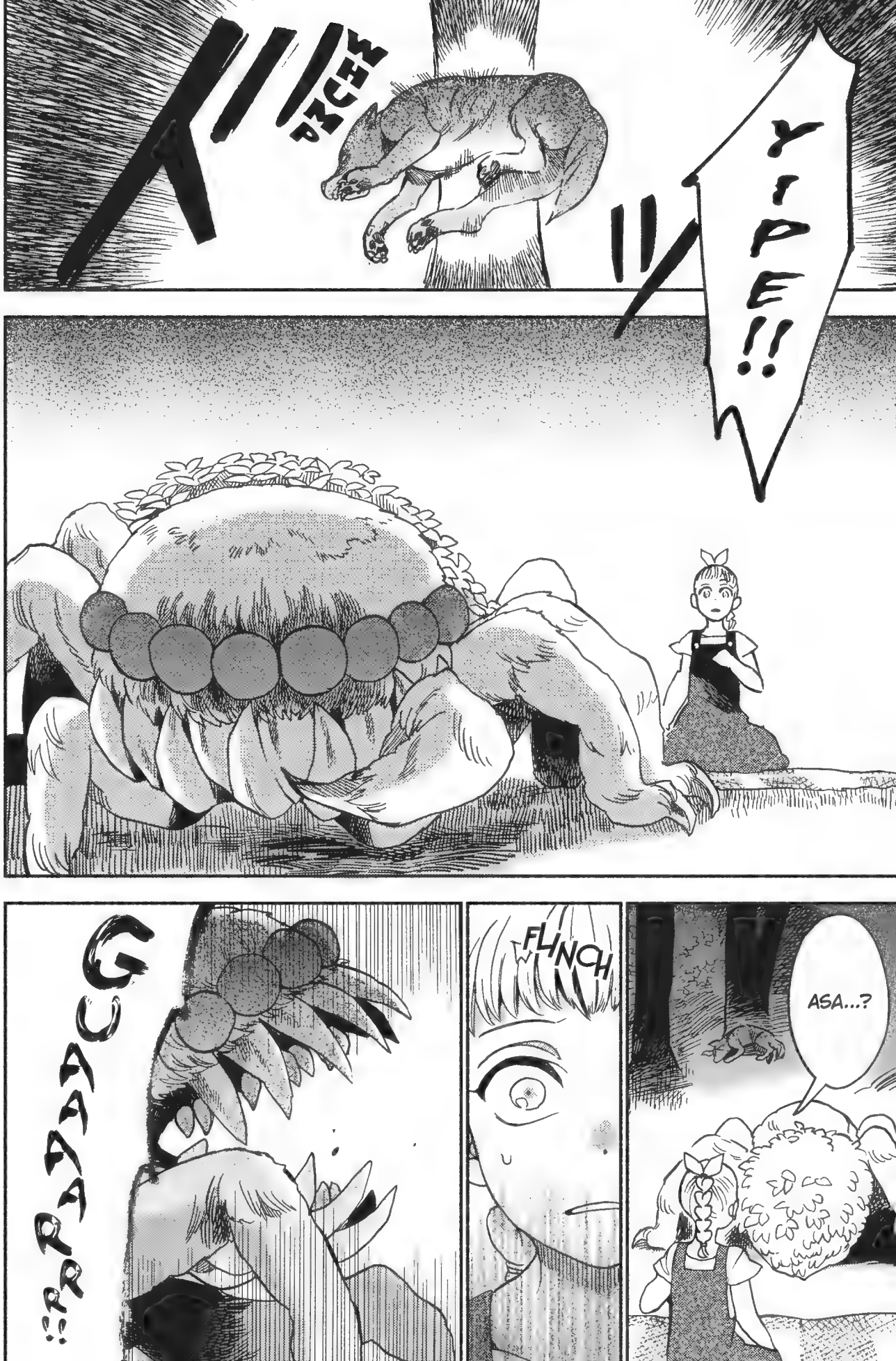
WHA ...?
A WILD DOG ...?!

GRURRRR...

TUP

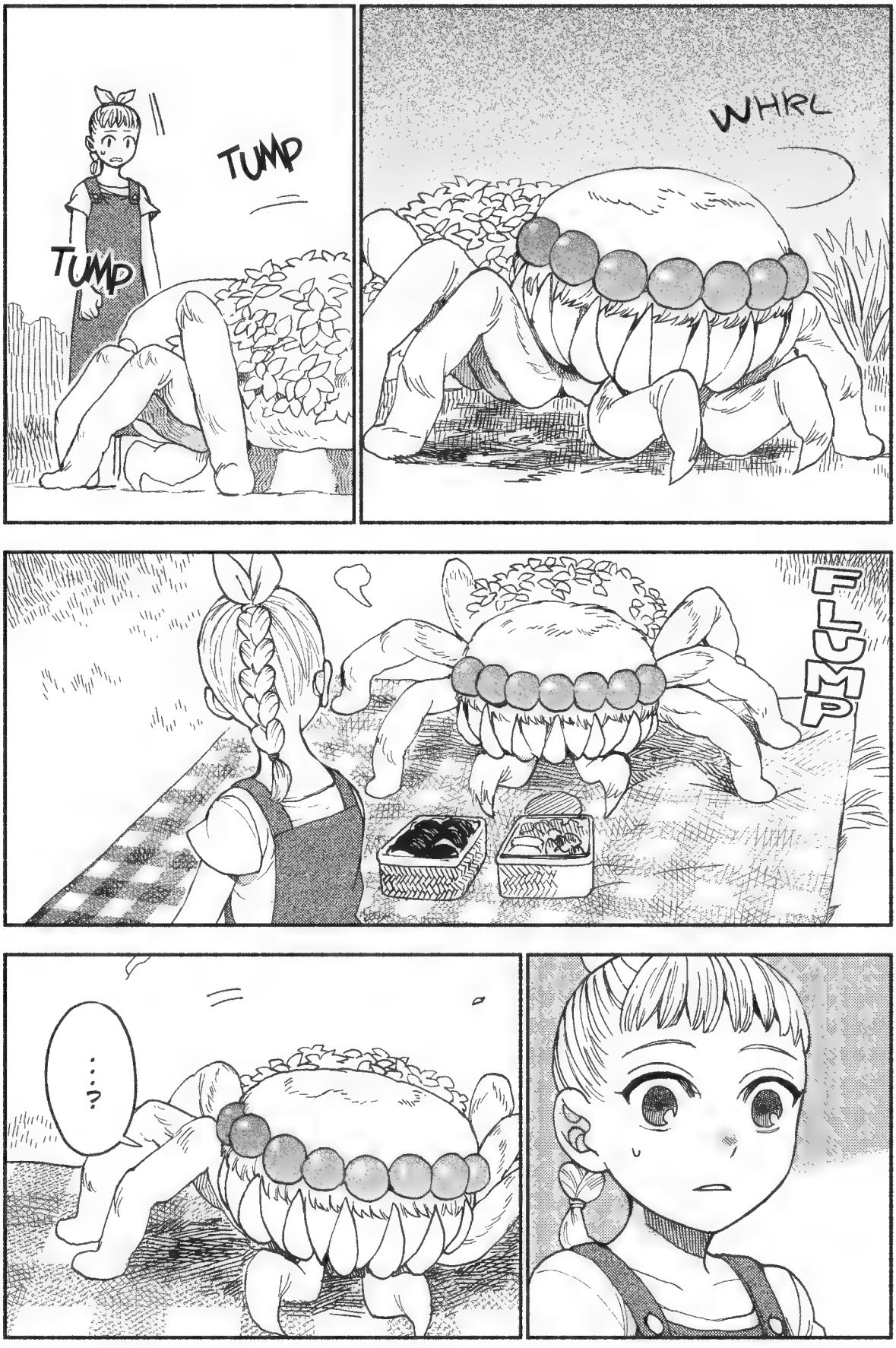
RSTL
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE...?

!!
RAAWR!
WHAK
!!

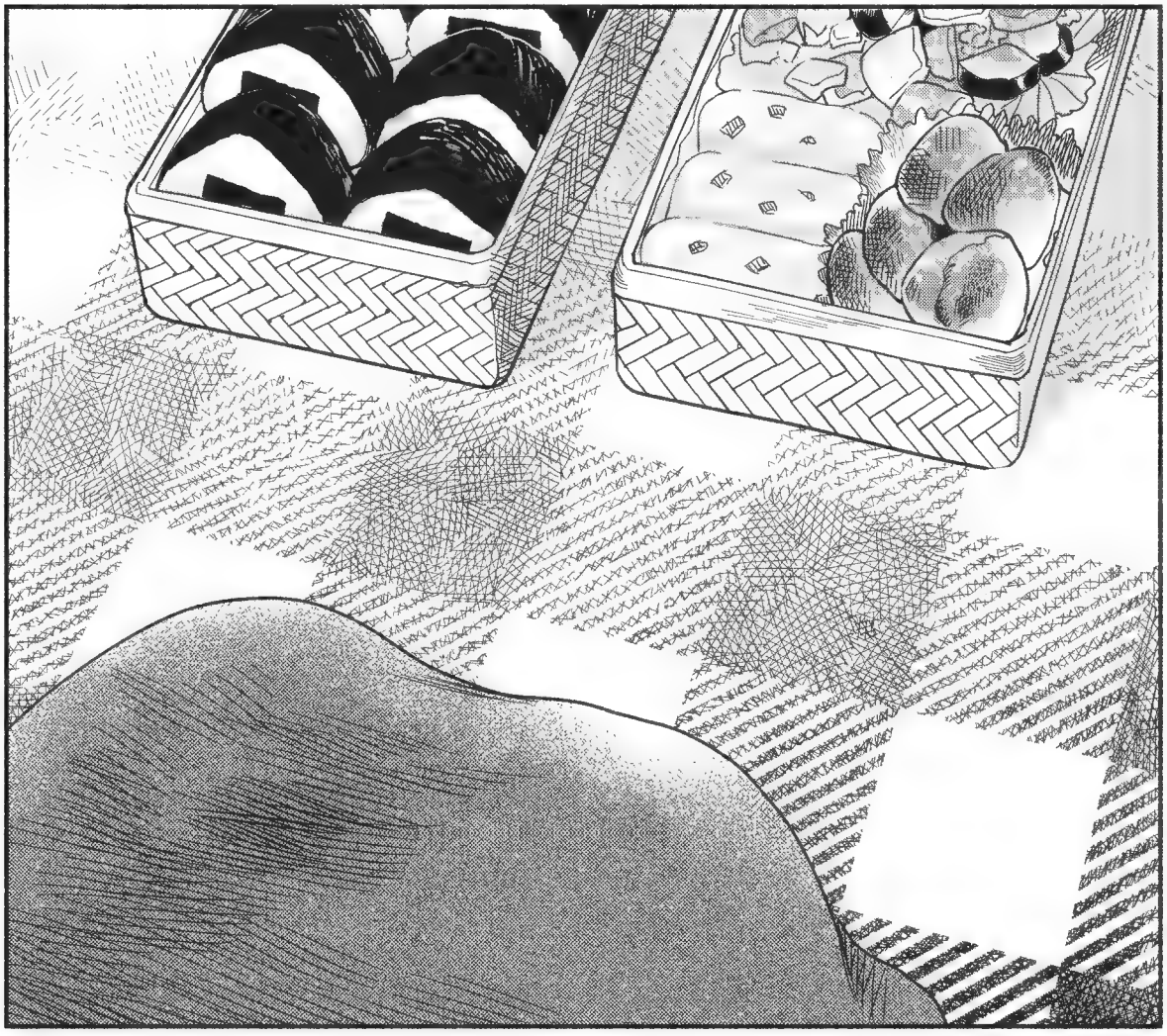

PECK
YIPE!!
ASA...?
FLINCH
!!PAWWG

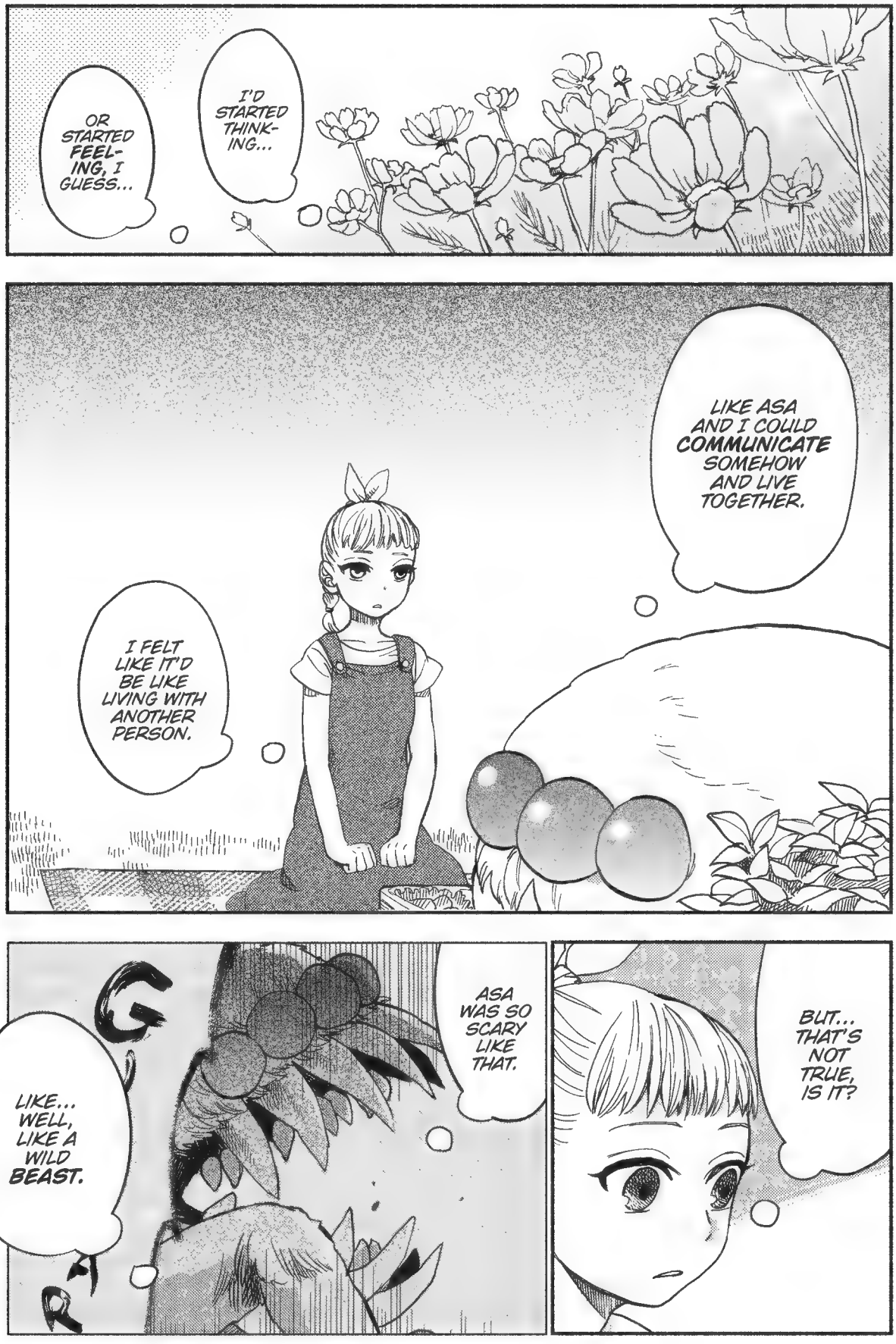
WHINE...
WHINE...
TOTTER
TRACE.
TRACE.
!
DASH
NO!
ASA, WAIT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHASE IT--!
WSH

ヒロ
ASA!!
UM...
ASA ...?
TP TP TP TP

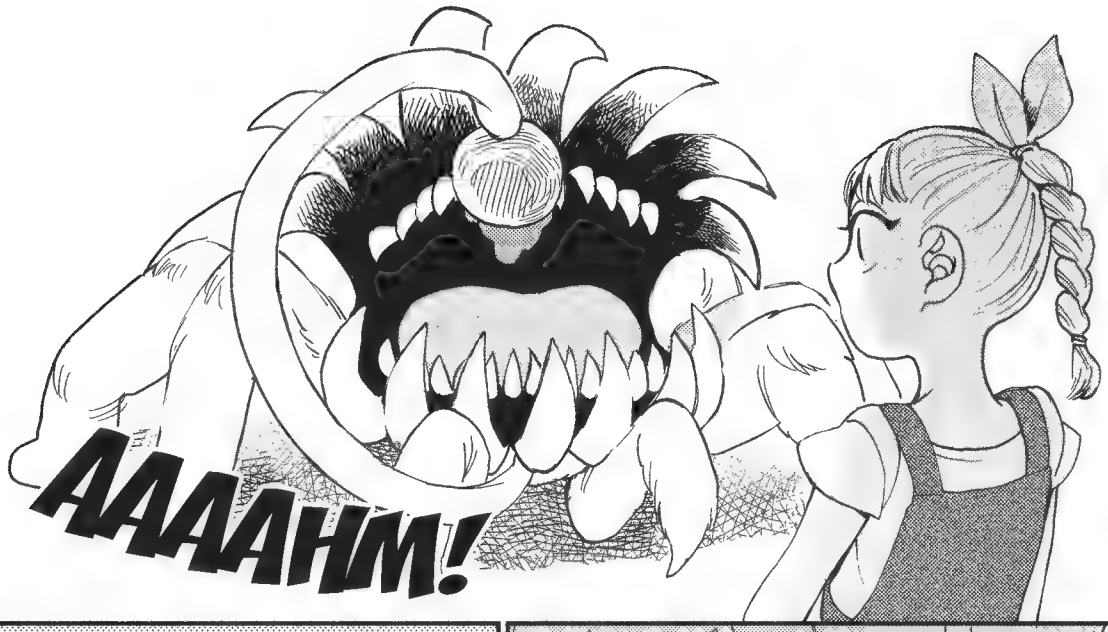

TUMP
TUMP
WHRL
FLUMP
…?

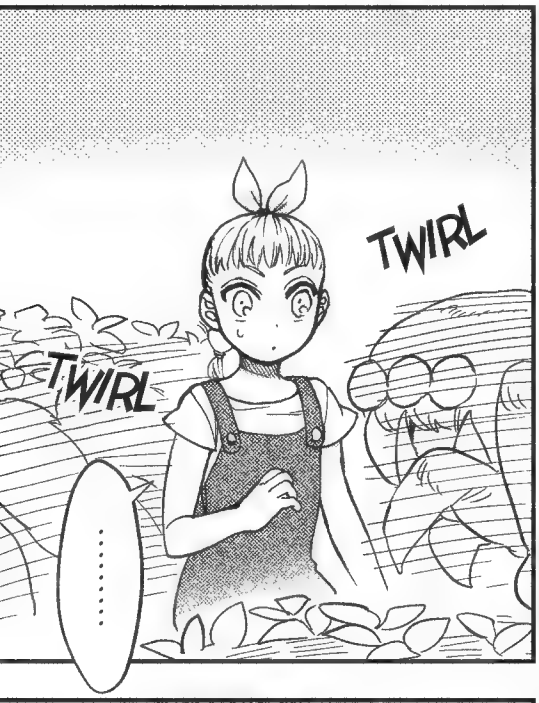
SLUMP



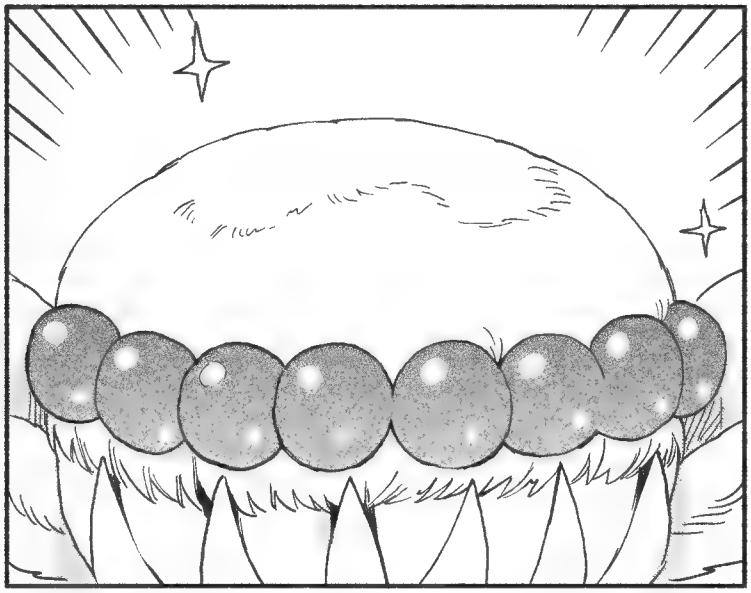

I'D STARTED THINK-ING...
OR STARTED FEEL-ING, I GUESS...
I FELT LIKE IT'D BE LIKE LIVING WITH ANOTHER PERSON.
LIKE ASA AND I COULD COMMUNICATE SOMEHOW AND LIVE TOGETHER.
ASA WAS SO SCARY LIKE THAT.
LIKE... WELL, LIKE A WILD BEAST.
GRR
BUT... THAT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT?

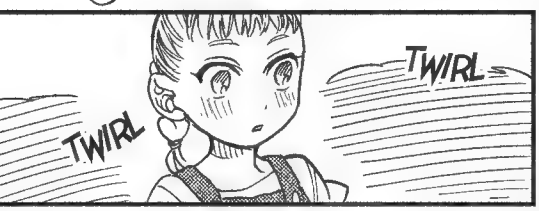
ASA'S NOT ANOTHER HUMAN. THEY ARE WHAT THEY ARE.
I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN TO LEARN WHAT THAT REALLY MEANS.
SWF
SNIFL
?
YOINK

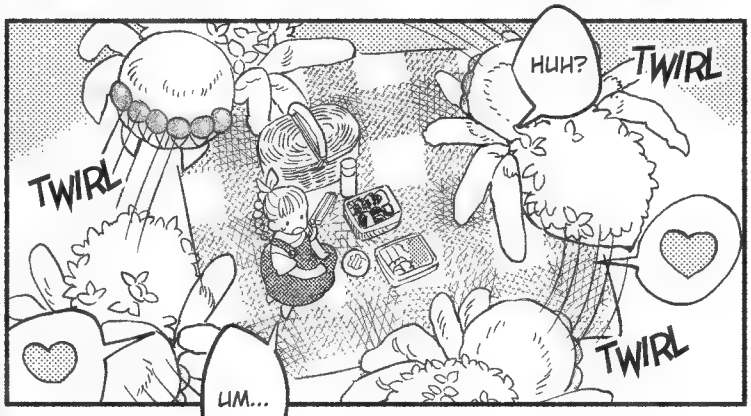

AAAAHM!

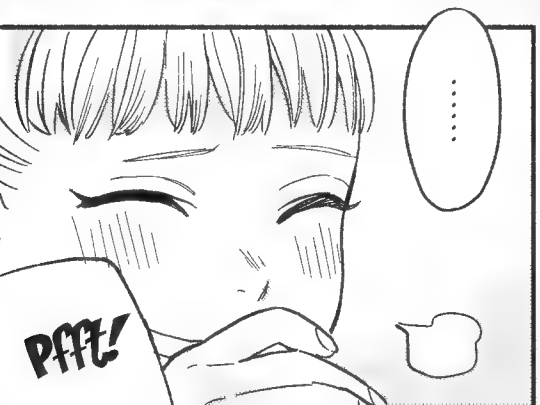

TWIRL
TWIRL
.....

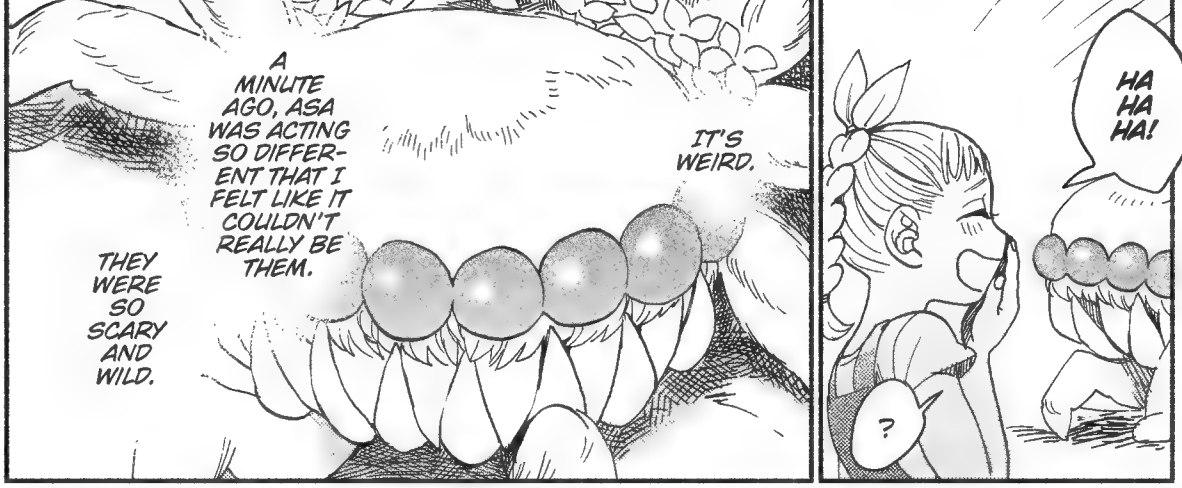
MUCH
MUCH
MUC-
GOOD.

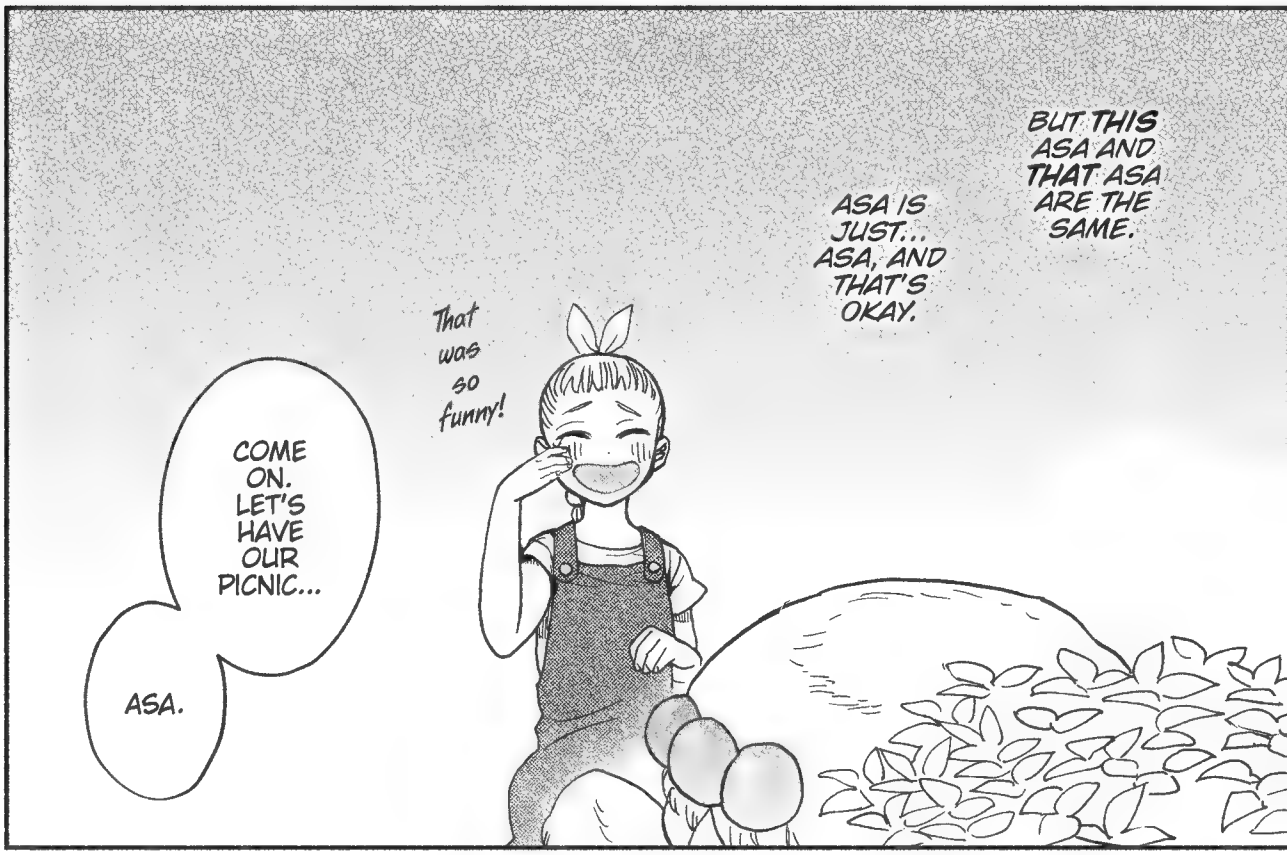


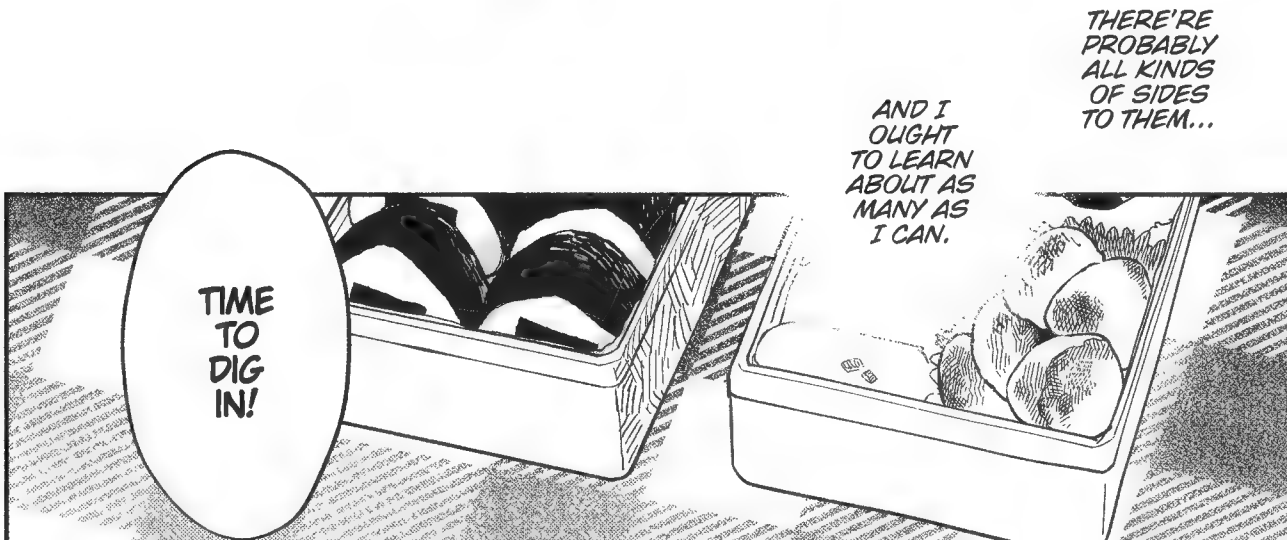

TWIRL
TWIRL


HUH?
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
UM...

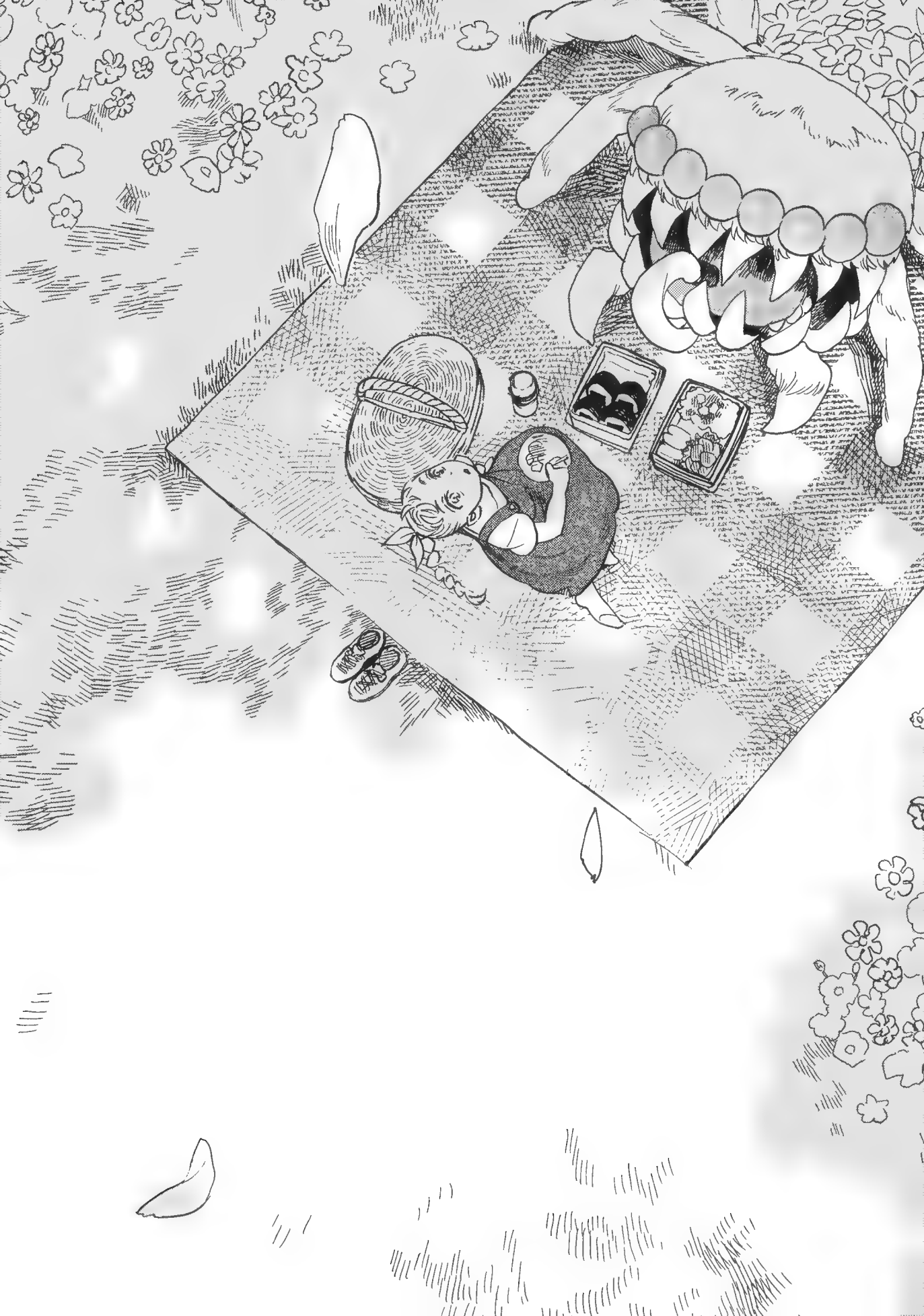

.....
Pfft!

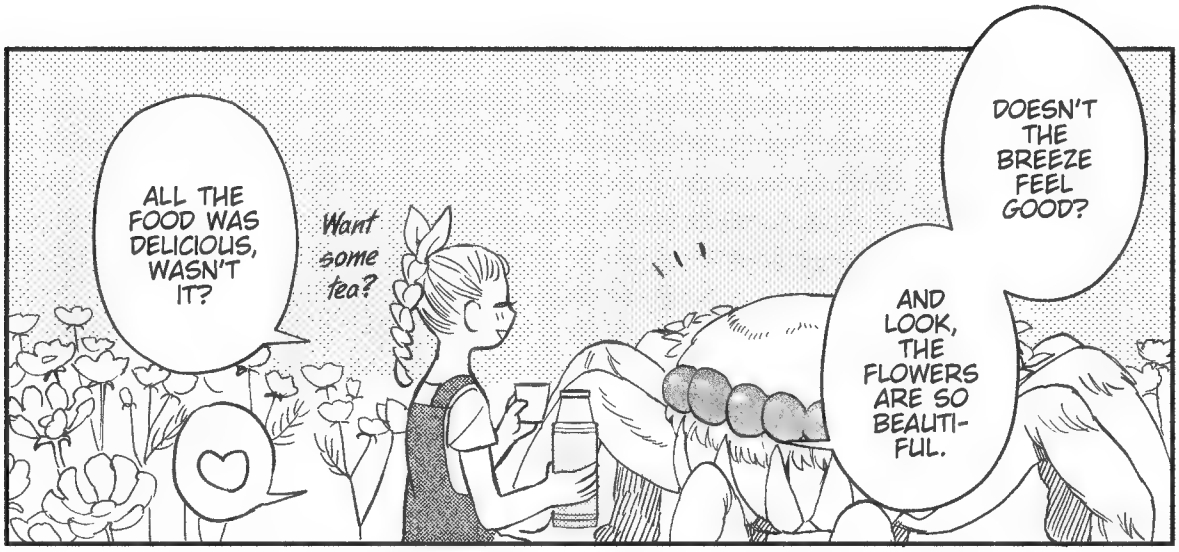

A MINUTE AGO, ASA WAS ACTING SO DIFFERENT THAT I FELT LIKE IT COULDN'T REALLY BE THEM.
IT'S WEIRD.
THEY WERE SO SCARY AND WILD.
HA HA HA!
?

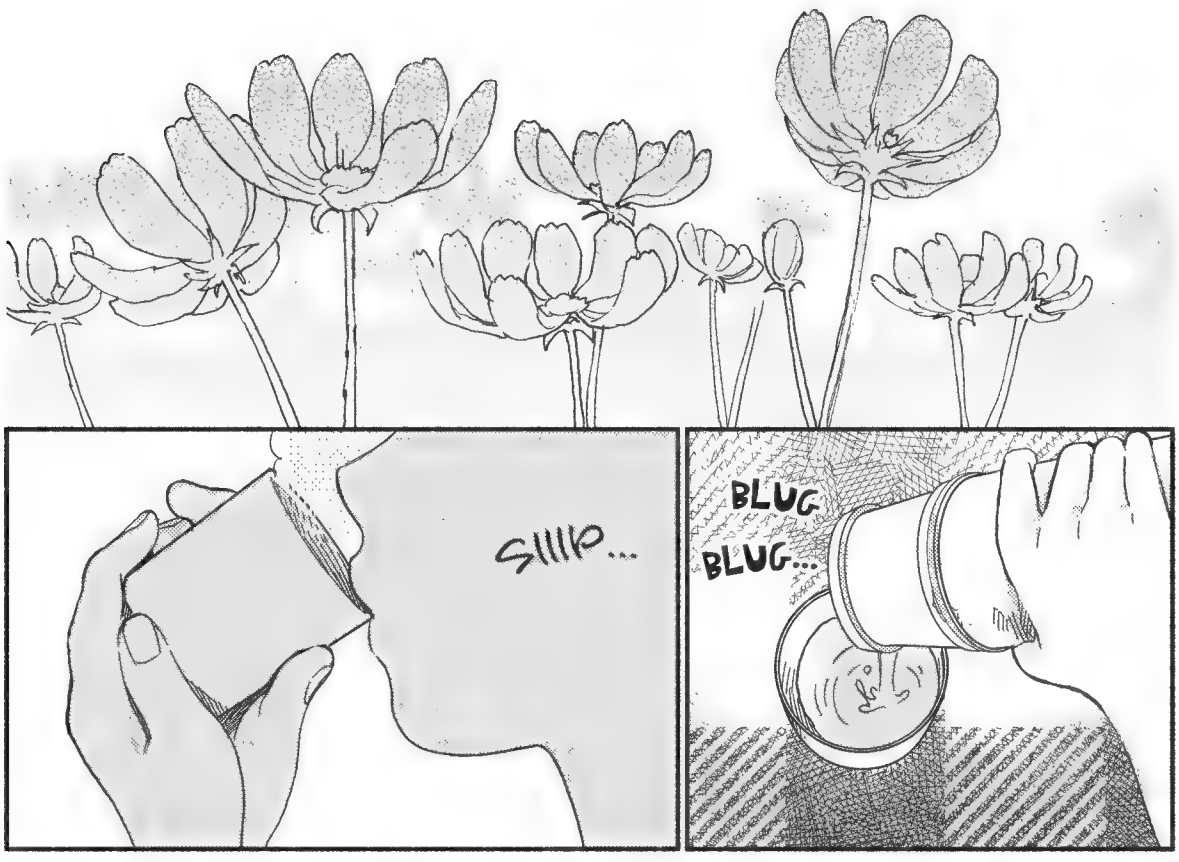

BUT THIS ASA AND THAT ASA ARE THE SAME.
ASA IS JUST... ASA, AND THAT'S OKAY.
That was so funny!
COME ON. LET'S HAVE OUR PICNIC...
ASA.


THERE'RE PROBABLY ALL KINDS OF SIDES TO THEM...
AND I OUGHT TO LEARN ABOUT AS MANY AS I CAN.
TIME TO DIG IN!

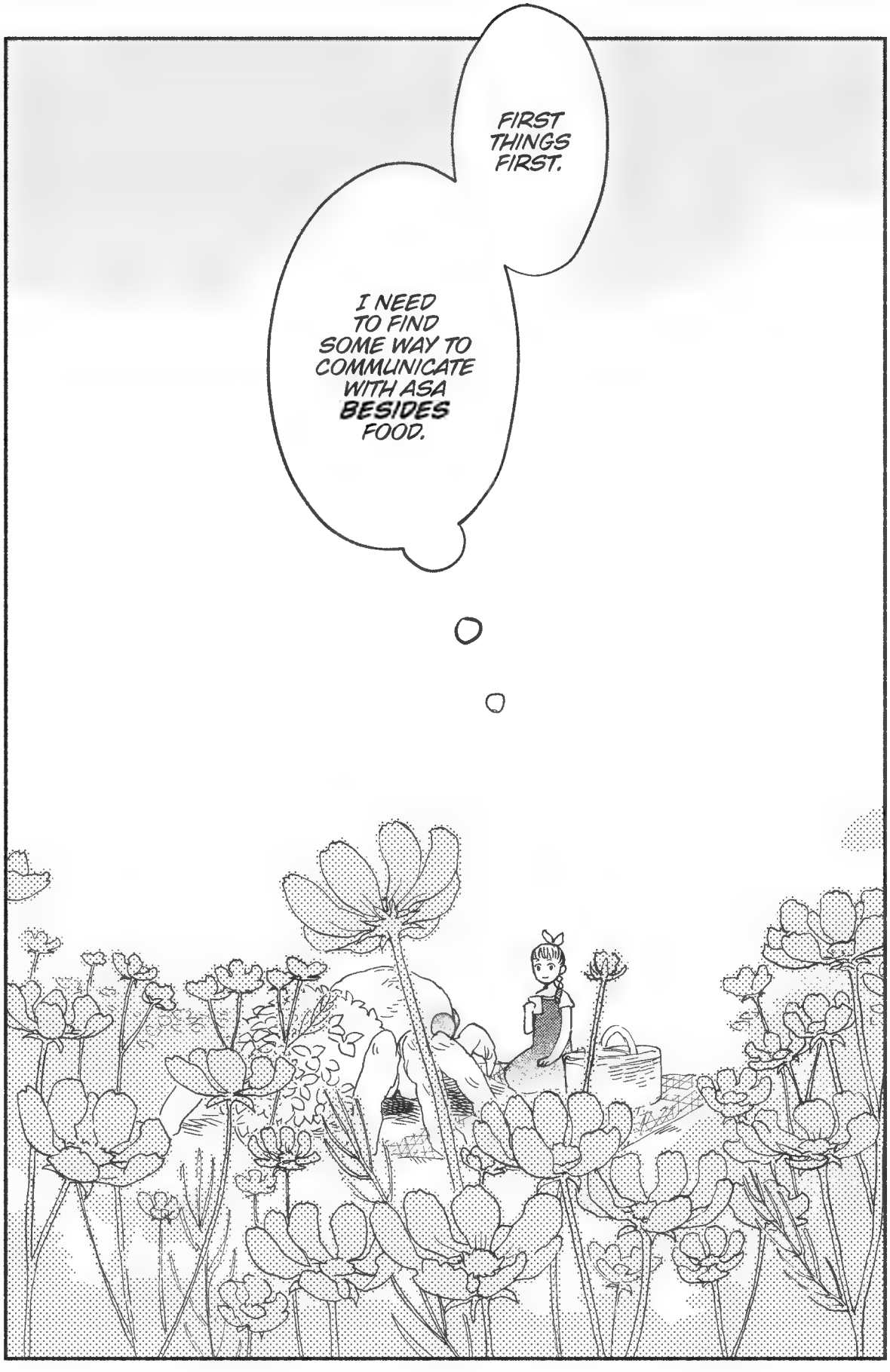
MMM!
NOM
THE RATATOUILLE TURNED OUT SO WELL!
The miso paste really sets off the acidity of the tomatoes.
NOM
NOM
FWIIIISH
AAAHM!
And the eggplant is melt-in-your-mouth good!




ALL THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS, WASN'T IT?
Want some tea?
DOESN'T THE BREEZE FEEL GOOD?
AND LOOK, THE FLOWERS ARE SO BEAUTI-FUL.


SIIIP...
BLUG
BLUG...

AHH...
WELL...


FIRST THINGS FIRST.
I NEED TO FIND SOME WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH ASA BESIDES FOOD.

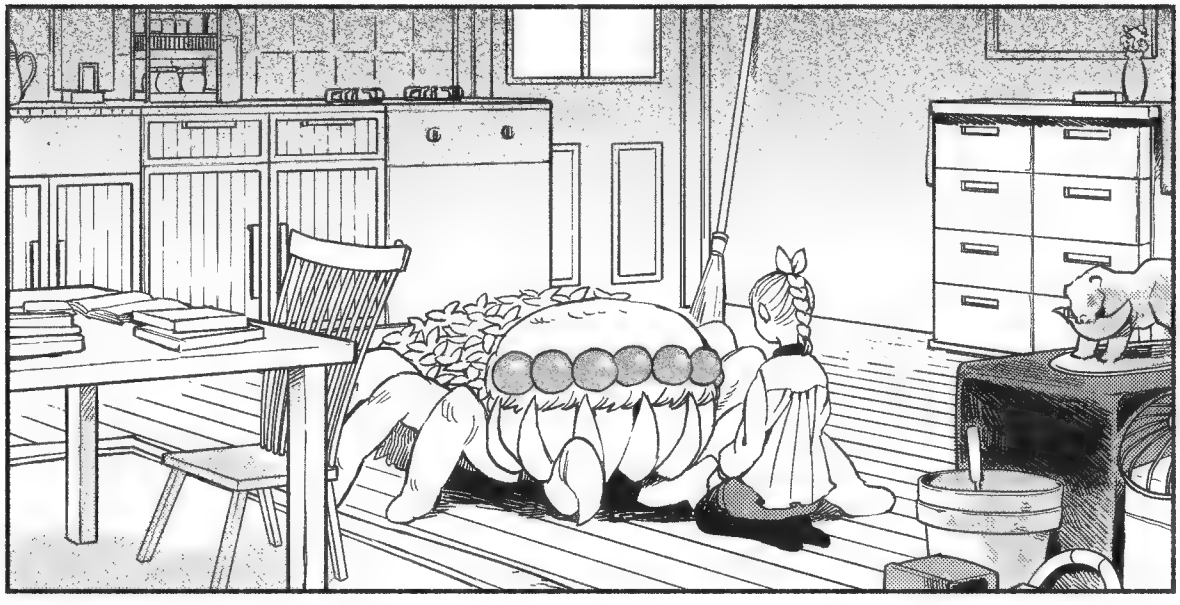
Giant Spider & Me

A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

Giant Spider & Me

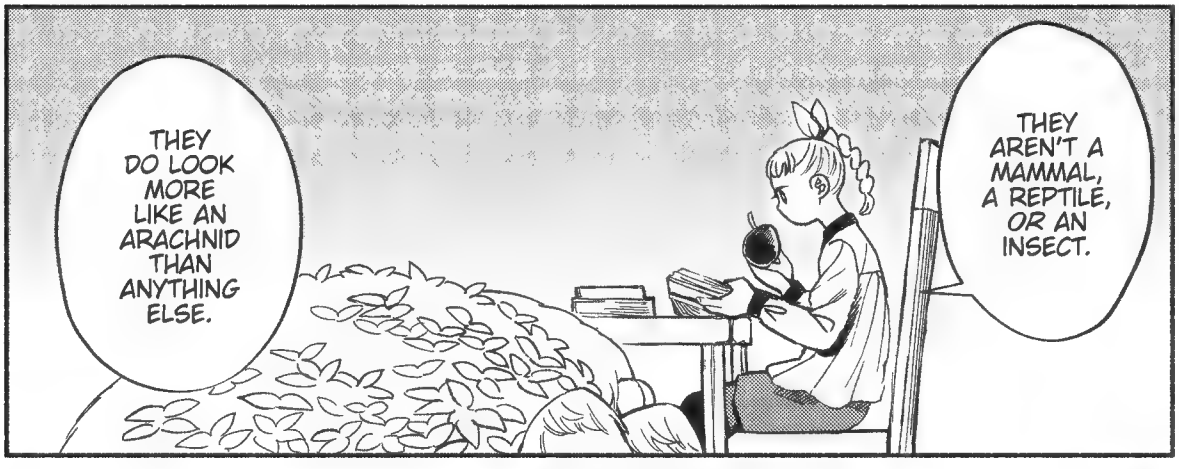
A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

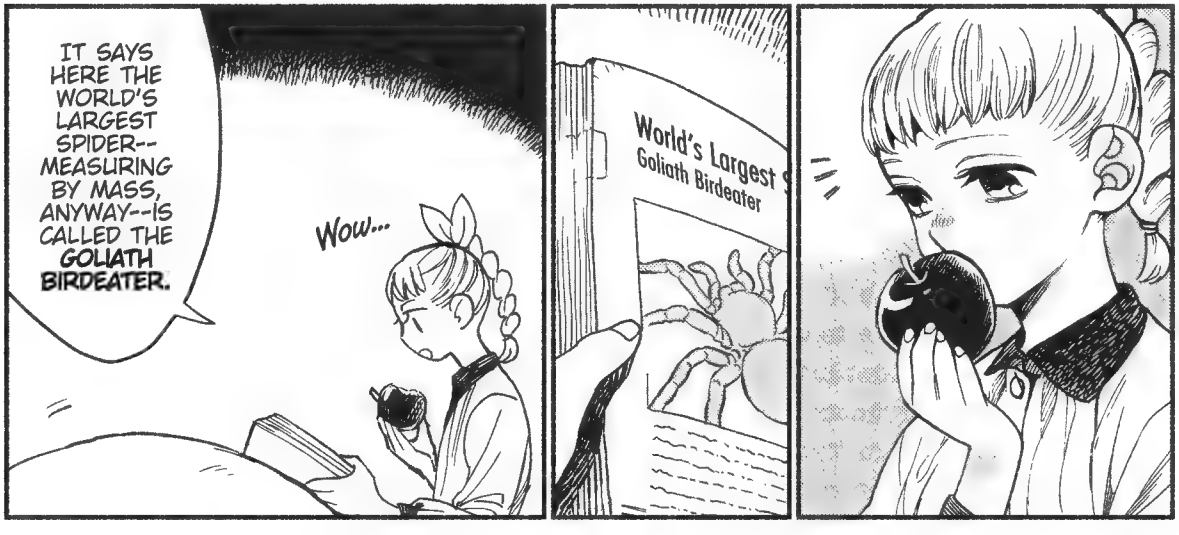
Chapter 3: Tipsiness & a Simple Moka Pot

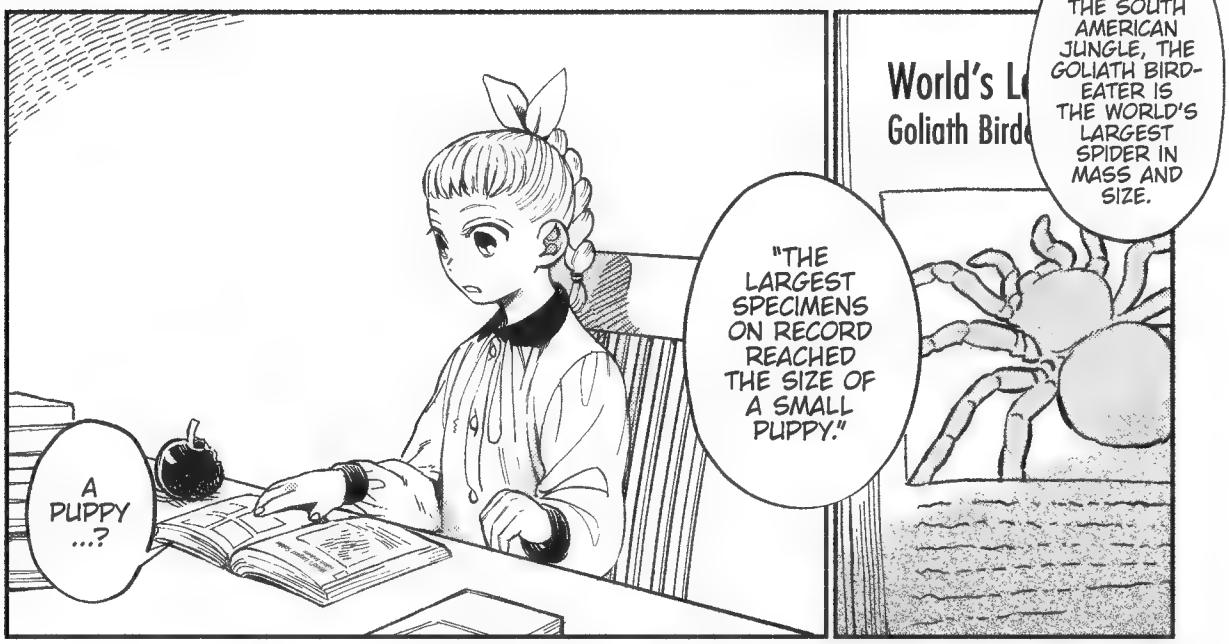


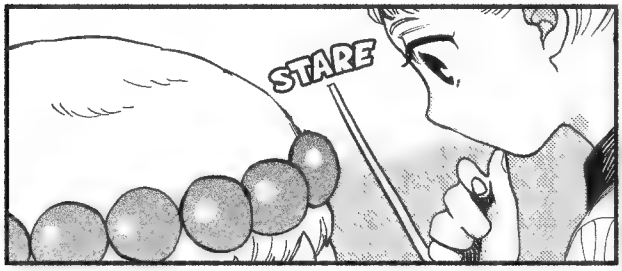
SHAKE, ASA. SHAKE!
POFF
TUMP
のし
TUMP
のし
MNCH MNCH
Thank you.
……

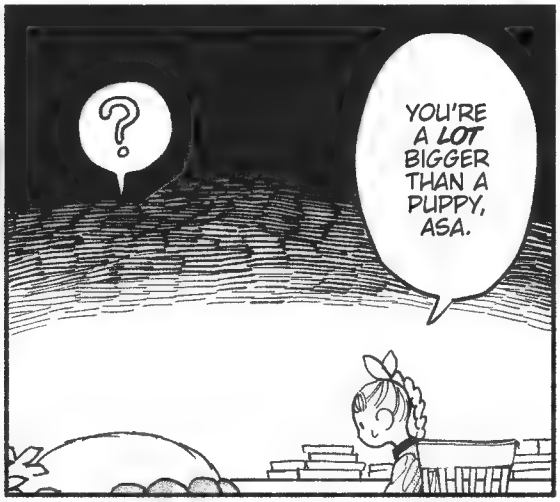
PLANTS
I LOOKED THROUGH EVERY BOOK HERE, BUT NONE OF THEM MENTIONS ANYTHING LIKE ASA.
Living with Dogs
TRAINING
TUNK
GAH! NOTHING'S HELPING!


THEY DO LOOK MORE LIKE AN ARACHNID THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
THEY AREN'T A MAMMAL, A REPTILE, OR AN INSECT.


IT SAYS HERE THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPIDER--MEASURING BY MASS, ANYWAY--IS CALLED THE GOLIATH BIRDEATER.
Wow...
World's Largest
Goliath Birdeater

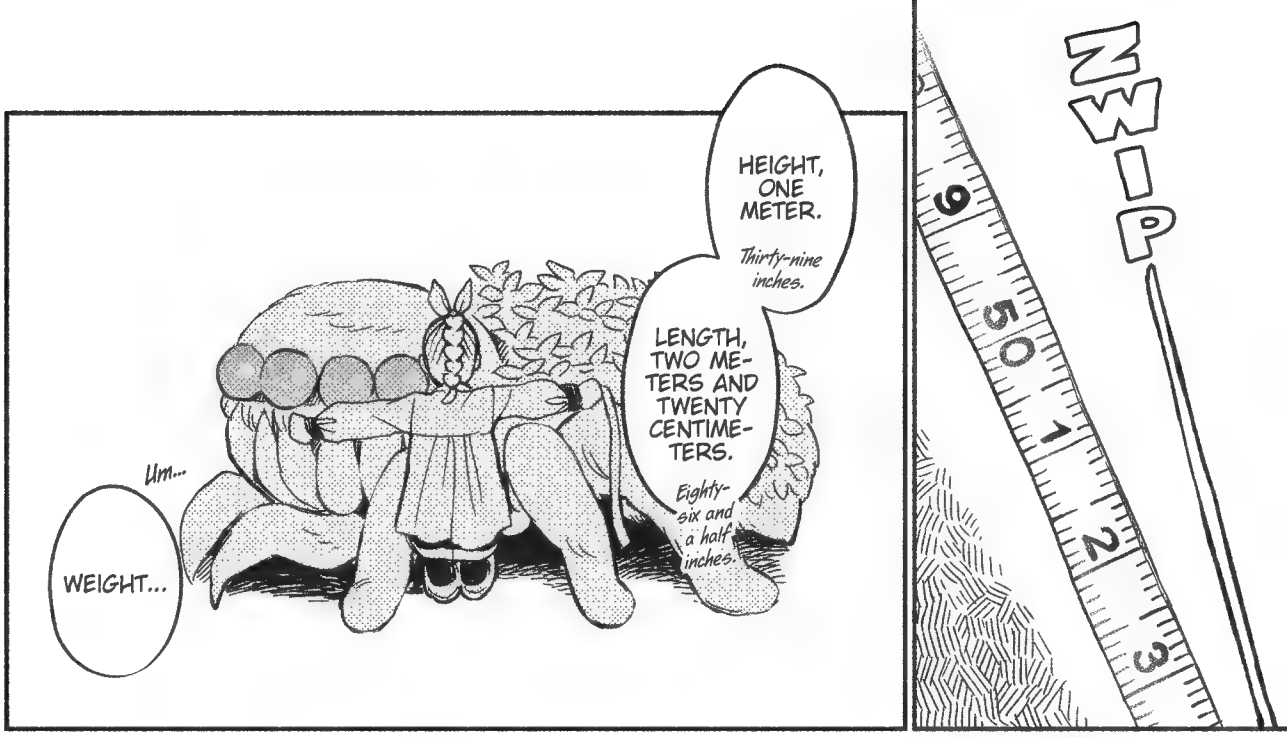

A PUPPY ...?
"THE LARGEST SPECIMENS ON RECORD REACHED THE SIZE OF A SMALL PUPPY."
World's L
Goliath Birde
"NATIVE TO THE SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE, THE GOLIATH BIRD-EATER IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPIDER IN MASS AND SIZE.

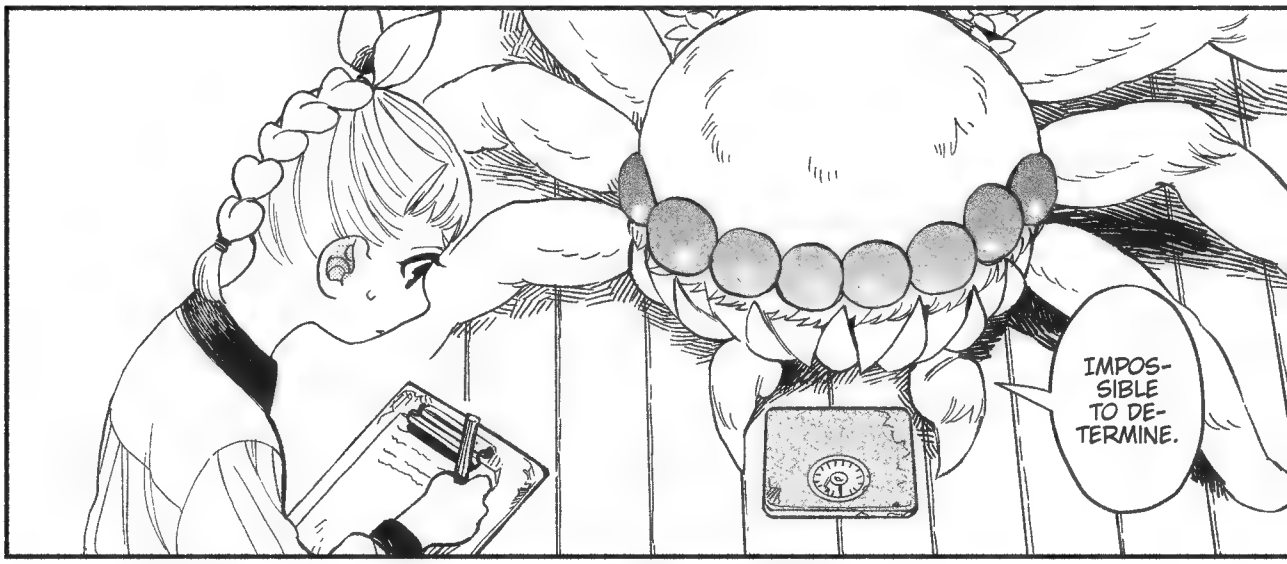

STARE

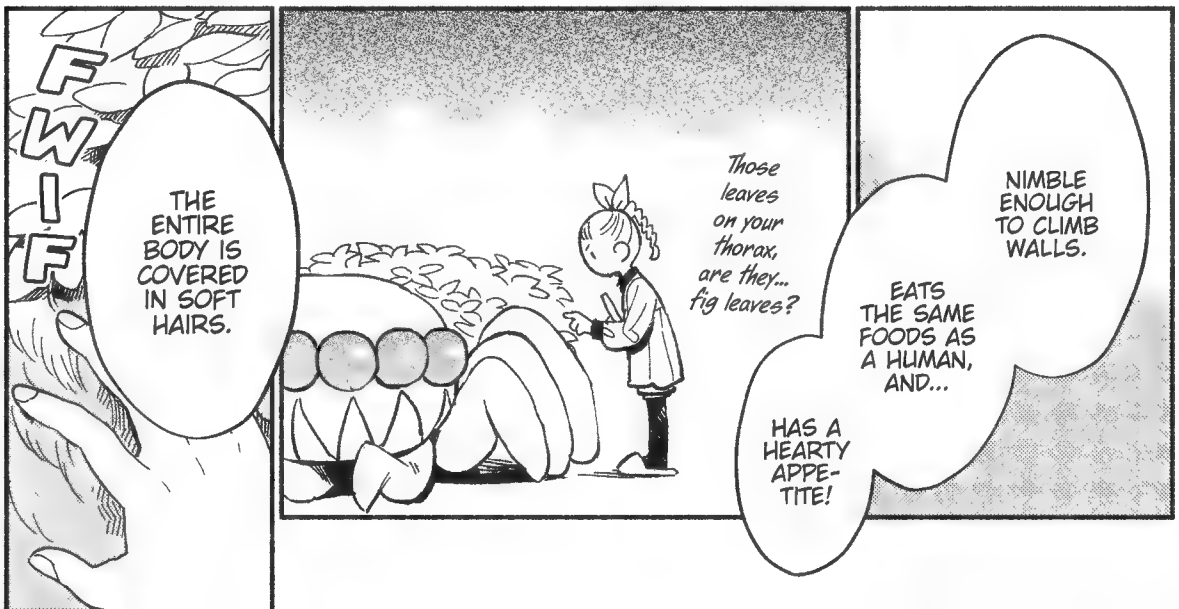

?
YOU'RE A LOT BIGGER THAN A PUPPY, ASA.

OKAY, WELL...
I CAN STUDY ASA MYSELF!

ALL OUR BOOKS ARE PRETTY OLD, THOUGH.
ASA COULD JUST BE A NEW SPECIES NO ONE HAD DISCOVERED BEFORE.


HEIGHT, ONE METER.
Thirty-nine inches.
LENGTH, TWO METERS AND TWENTY CENTIMETERS.
Eighty-six and a half inches.
Um...
WEIGHT...
ZWIP

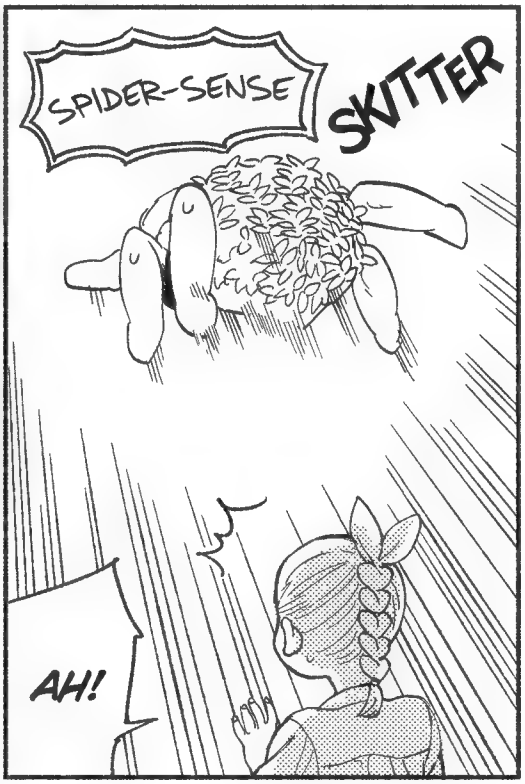

IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE.


FWIF
THE ENTIRE BODY IS COVERED IN SOFT HAIRS.
Those leaves on your thorax, are they... fig leaves?
NIMBLE ENOUGH TO CLIMB WALLS.
EATS THE SAME FOODS AS A HUMAN, AND...
HAS A HEARTY APPETITE!

?!
Whoa...
OH, WOW...! THE HAIRS ON ASA'S BACKSIDE ARE REALLY SOFT.
ヒソーヒソー
ヒソーヒソー
HEY, UM... ASA?
GULP...

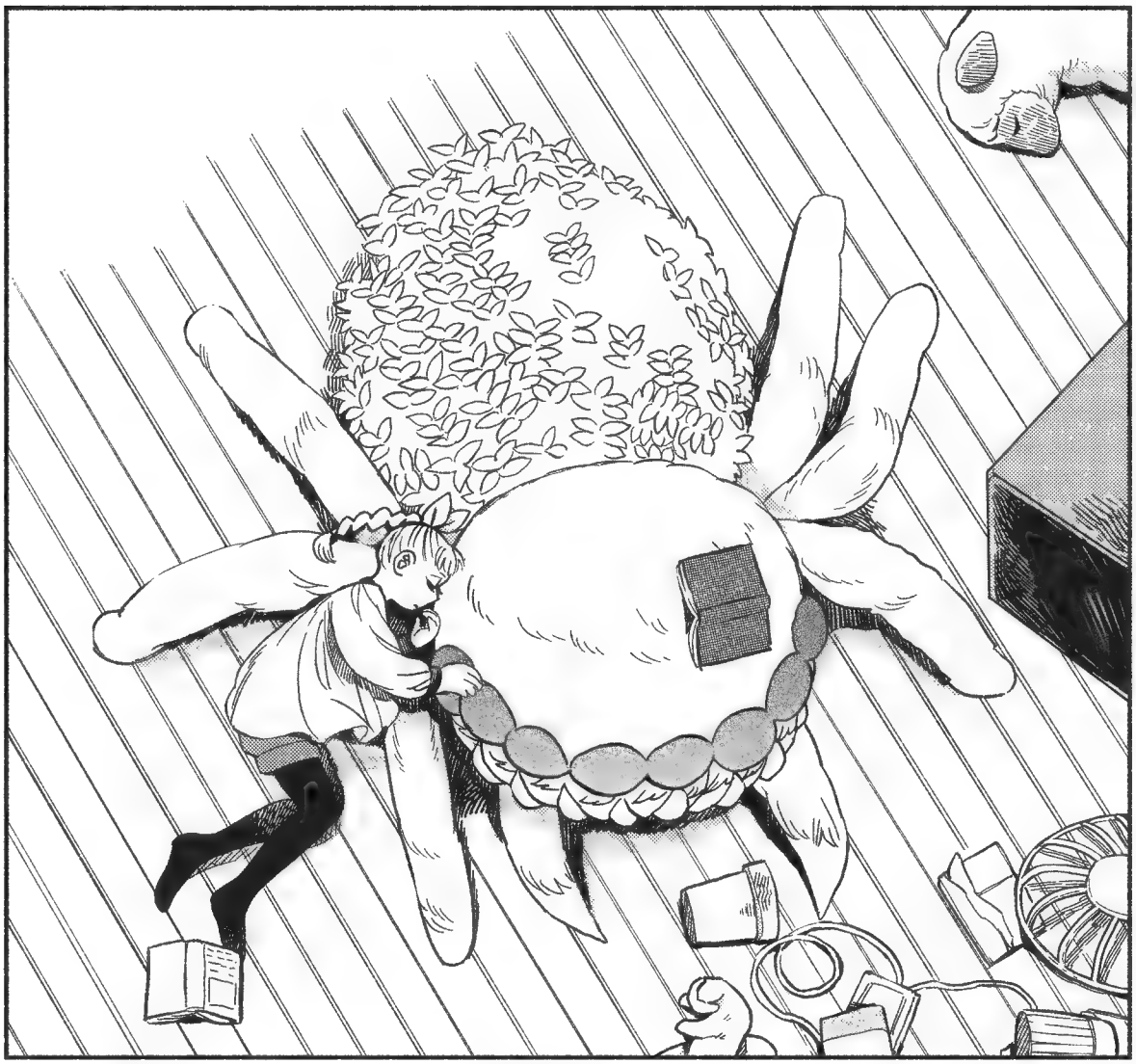
FLINCH
DOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
CAN I CUDDLE UP TO YOUR BOTTOM...?

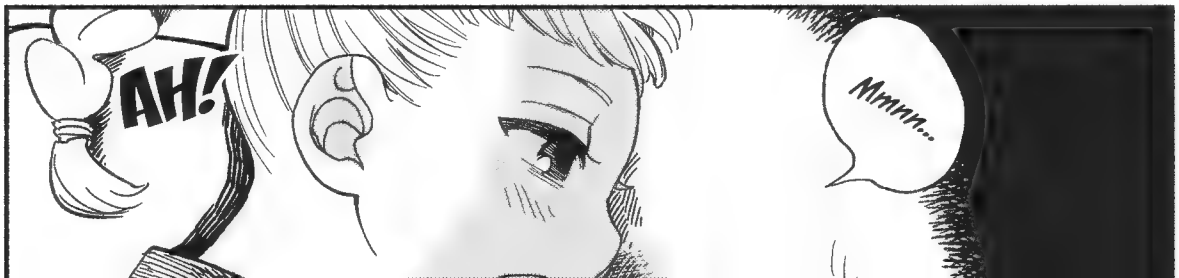
KLATTER
KLATTER
N-NO!! ASA, STOP! NO RUNNING AROUND THE HOUSE--!
KRAAASH
Eeep!
Dad's collec-tion!!


SPIDER-SENSE
SKITTER
AH!

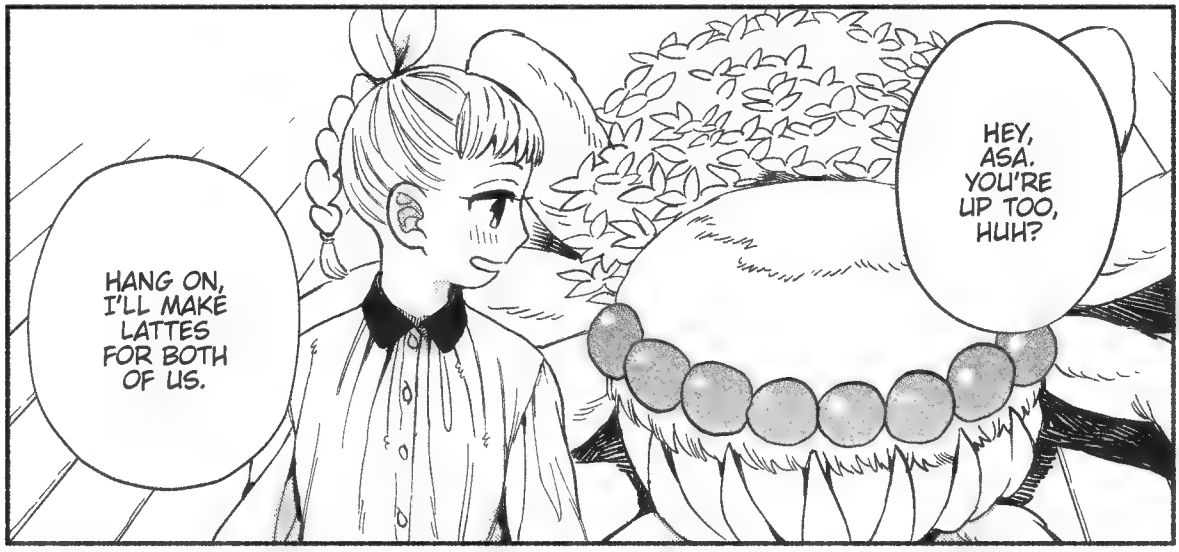
GIVE
WHEW... YOU'RE FINALLY DONE.
Once they start running, they just don't stop!
HUFF
PUFF
Hmm? IS THAT ...
ASA'S HEART-BEAT I'M HEAR-ING?
.....
FWUF

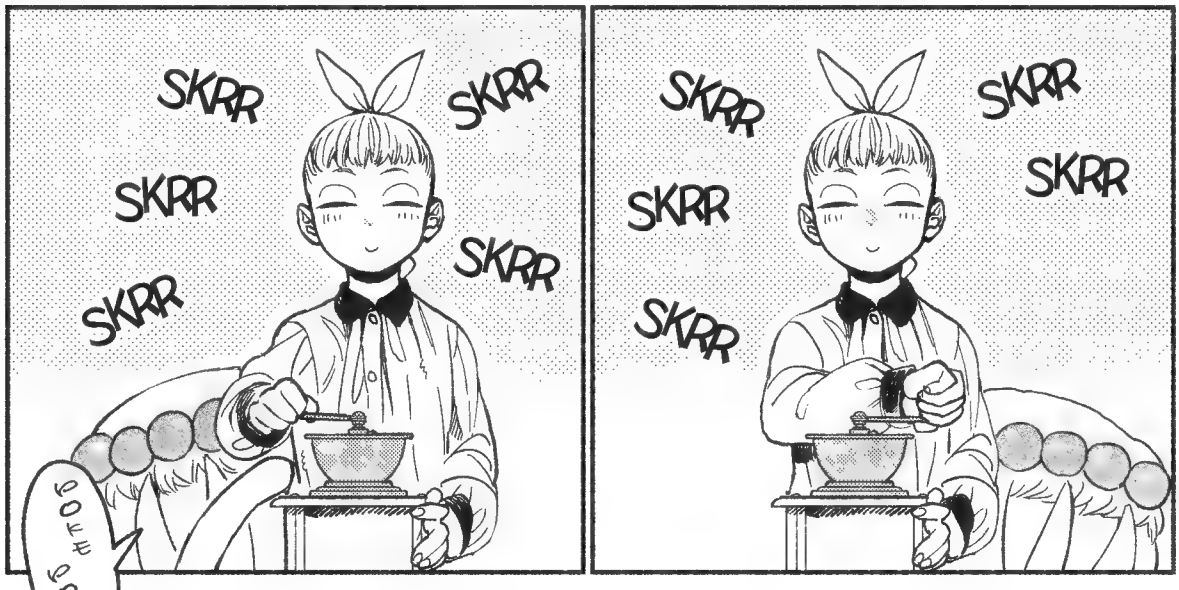
SO WARM...



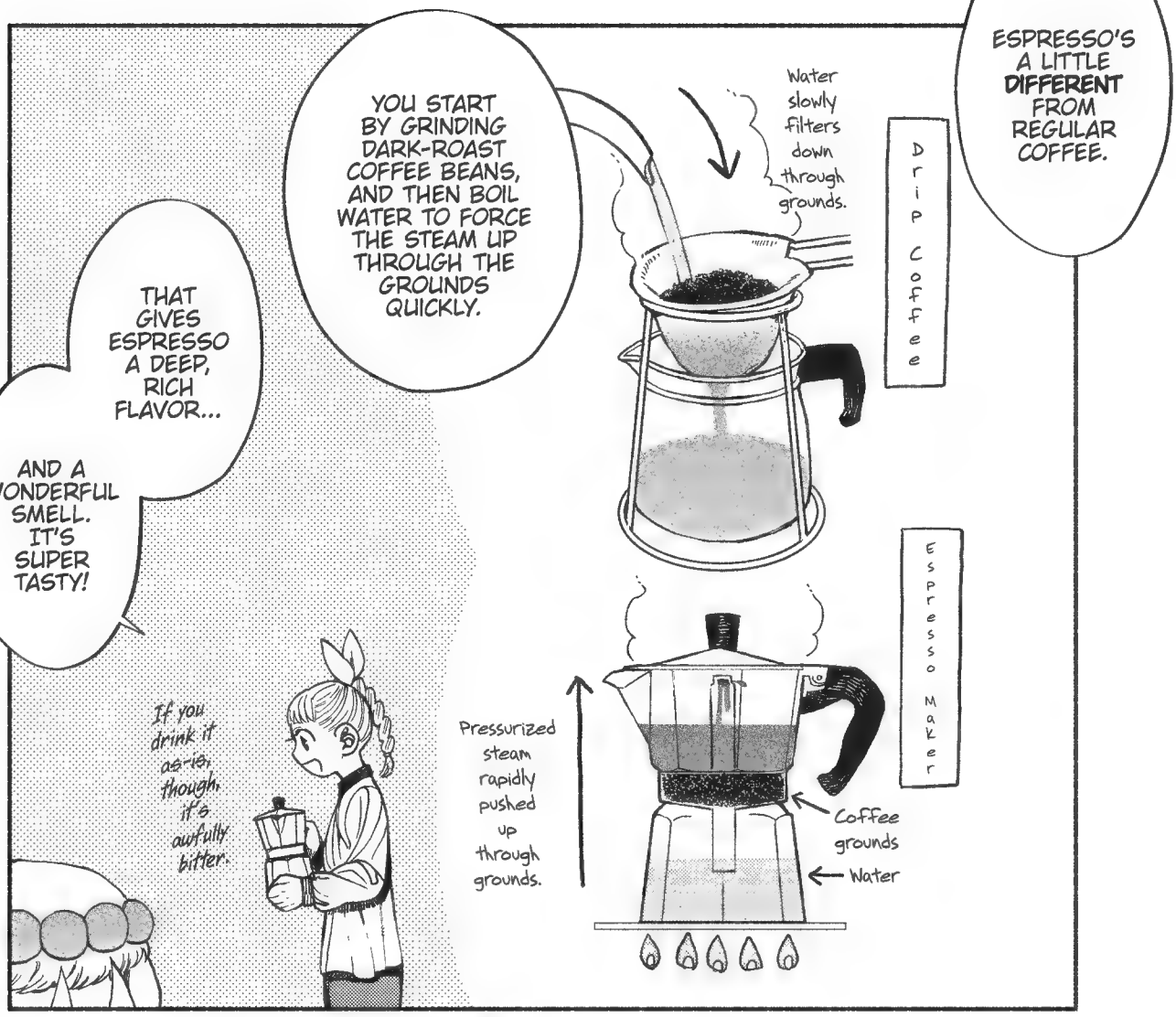

AH!
Mmmm...

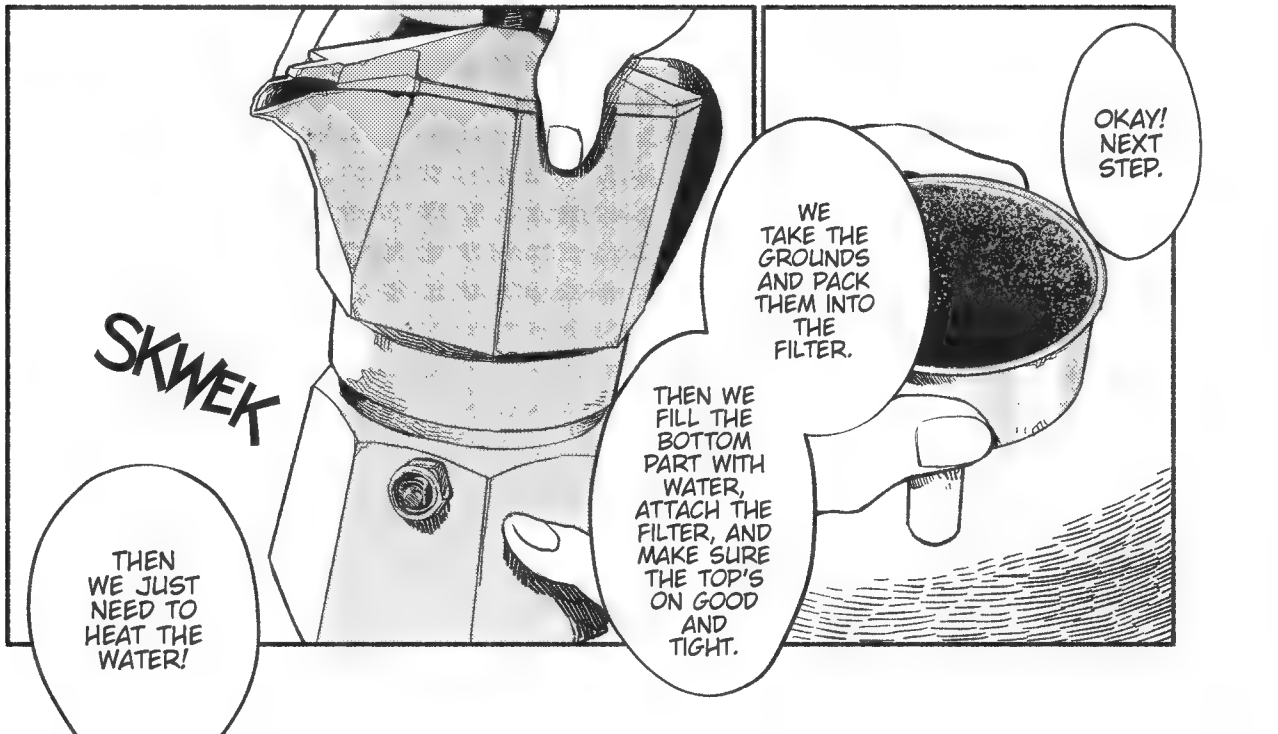
GUESS I SHOULD MAKE SOME OF THAT TO WAKE UP.
YAAAAWN!
Whoops!
GUESS I DOZED OFF.
YIKES! IT'S A DISASTER IN HERE!
PATTA PATTAAA
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRCH...


HEY, ASA. YOU'RE UP TOO, HUH?
HANG ON, I'LL MAKE LATTES FOR BOTH OF US.


SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
GOOD GOOD
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR

SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
Ooh, good job!
OKAY.
IT'S EASY. JUST TURN THIS CRANK IN A CIRCLE.
YOU WANT TO TRY DOING IT, HUH?
KA-POK
カポ
TA-
DA!
THERE! THE BEANS ARE GROUND, SO IT'S TIME FOR *THIS!*
ESPRESSO...
?
DAD FOUND IT ON ONE OF HIS TRIPS.
IT'S A POT THAT LETS YOU BREW ESPRESSO!

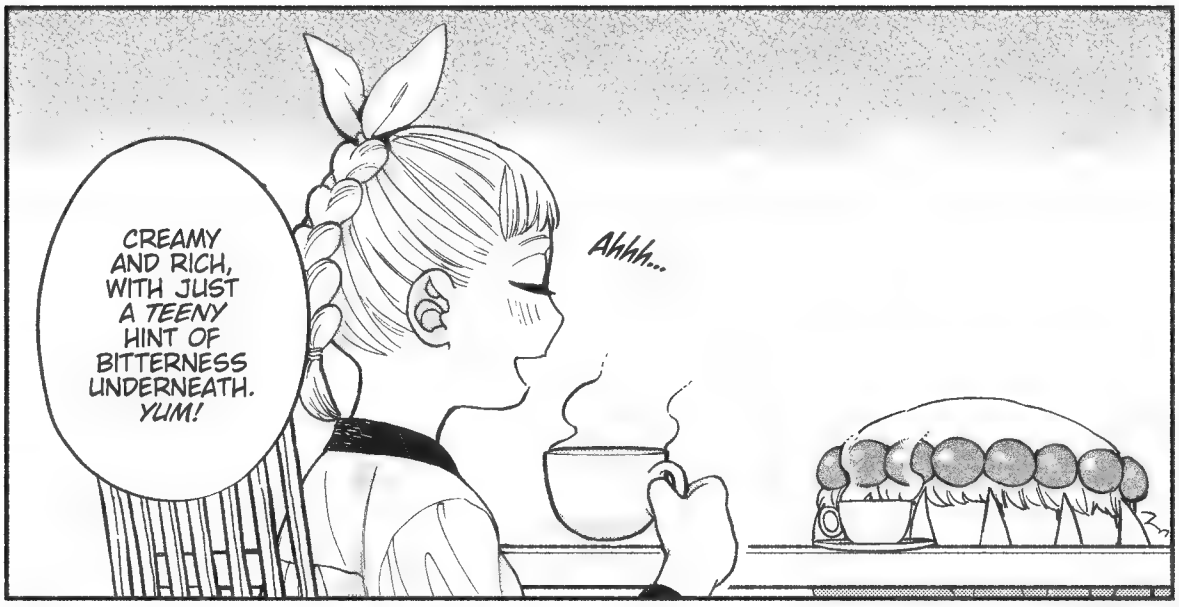

ESPRESSO'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR COFFEE.
YOU START BY GRINDING DARK-ROAST COFFEE BEANS, AND THEN BOIL WATER TO FORCE THE STEAM UP THROUGH THE GROUNDS QUICKLY.
THAT GIVES ESPRESSO A DEEP, RICH FLAVOR...
AND A WONDERFUL SMELL. IT'S SUPER TASTY!
If you drink it as-is, though, it's awfully bitter.
Water slowly filters down through grounds.
Drip Coffee
Pressurized steam rapidly pushed up through grounds.
Coffee grounds
Water
Espresso Maker


SKWEK
THEN WE JUST NEED TO HEAT THE WATER!
THEN WE FILL THE BOTTOM PART WITH WATER, ATTACH THE FILTER, AND MAKE SURE THE TOP'S ON GOOD AND TIGHT.
WE TAKE THE GROUNDS AND PACK THEM INTO THE FILTER.
OKAY! NEXT STEP.

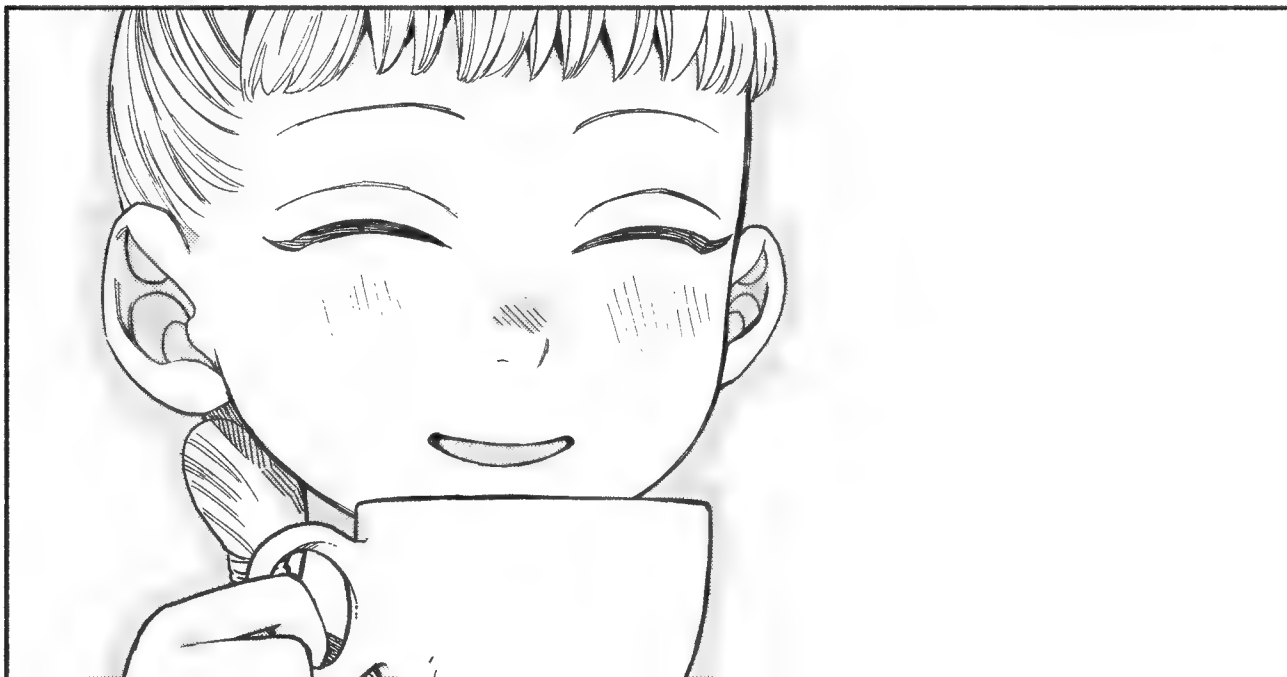
DAZE
YOU KNOW, EVEN SITTING AND WAITING FOR IT TO BE READY FEELS LUXURIOUS.
Gotta make sure not to burn myself...
BLRBL
BLRBL
BLRB
BLRB
BLRB
BLRB
AHA! IT'S DONE!

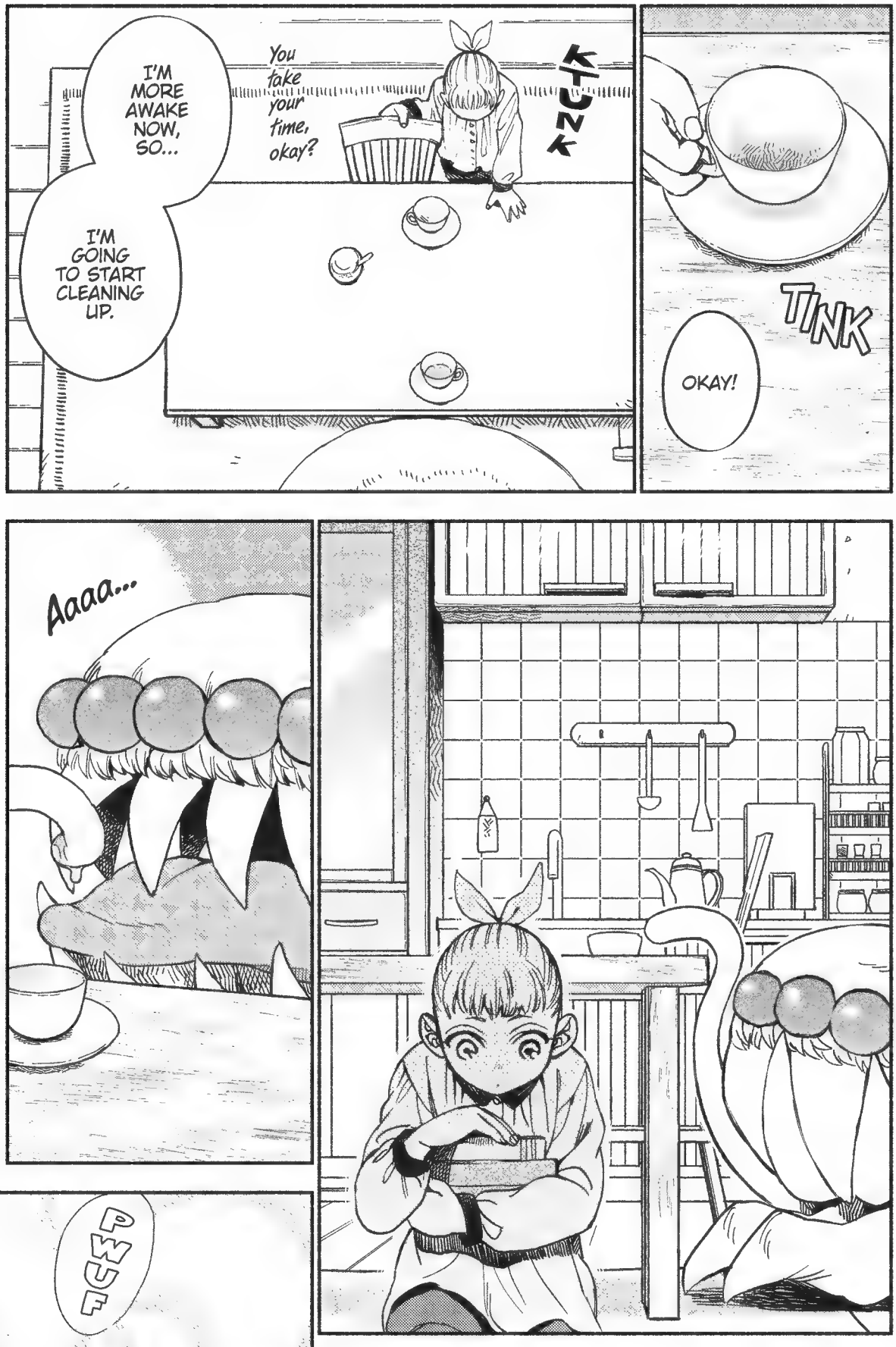
BRLBL
BRLBL
BRLBL
HERE'S YOURS, ASA.
OOH! THE COLOR'S SO RICH!
Oh!
LICK
WAIT--! IT'S WAY TOO HOT AND BITTER TO DRINK STRAIGHT!
You need to add sugar and cream first!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
!!
BLRBL
BLRBL
SEE, YOU POUR SOME IN LIKE THIS...

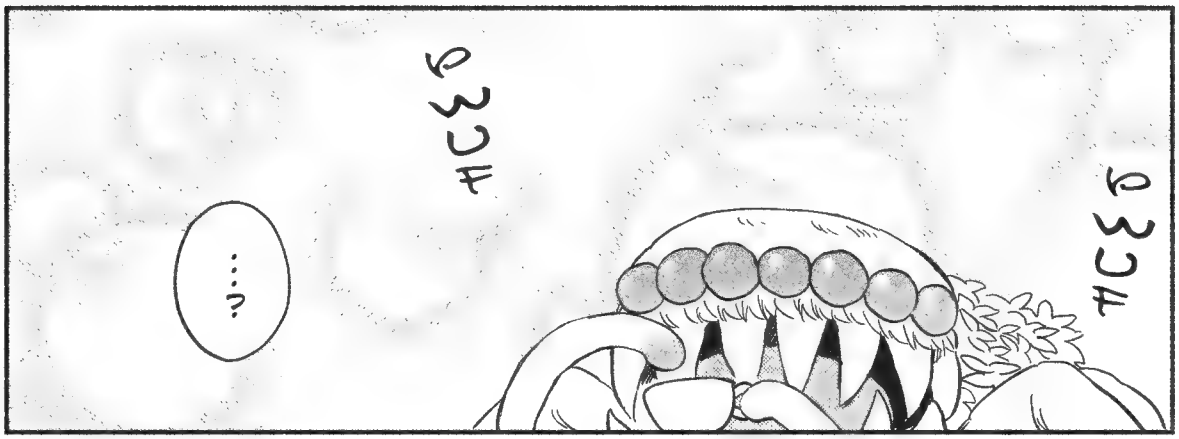
THERE! NOW IT'S READY.
ONE CAFÉ LATTE, JUST FOR YOU.
By the way, the ratios are:
CAFÉ AU LAIT
coffee / milk
50 / 50
CAFÉ LATTE
espresso / milk
20 / 80
.....
IT'S NOT BITTER ANY-MORE, I PROMISE!
.....
STARE——
SIP


CREAMY AND RICH, WITH JUST A *TEENY* HINT OF BITTERNESS UNDERNEATH. *YUM!*
Ahhh...

SLURP
SLURP
LICK
.....

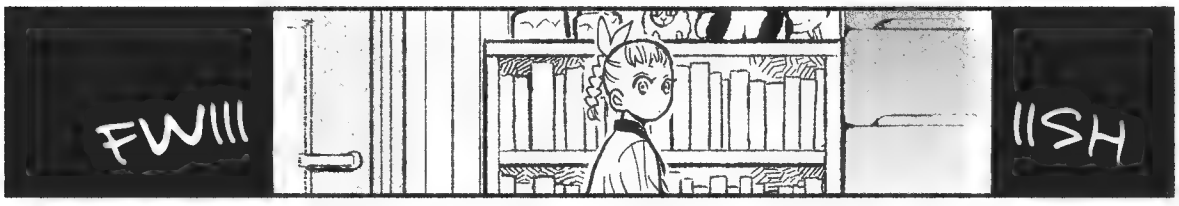


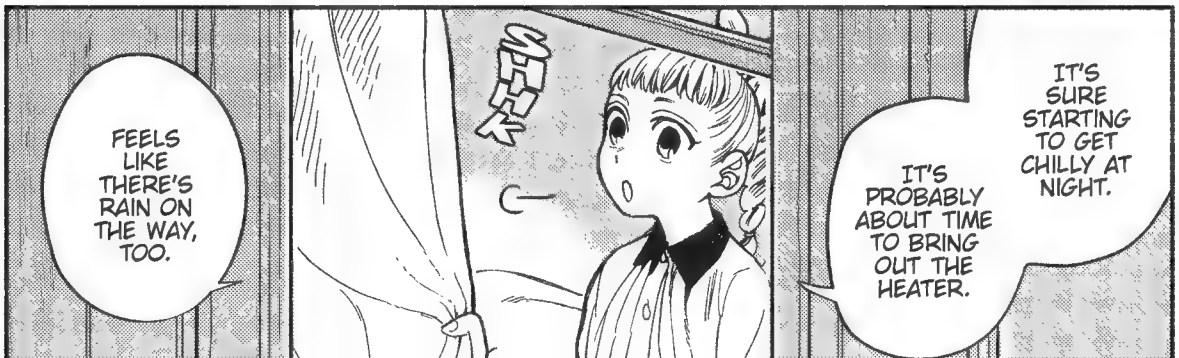

I'M MORE AWAKE NOW, SO...
I'M GOING TO START CLEANING UP.
You take your time, okay?
KTUNK
TINK
OKAY!
Aaaa...
PWF


ピコン
ピコン
…？

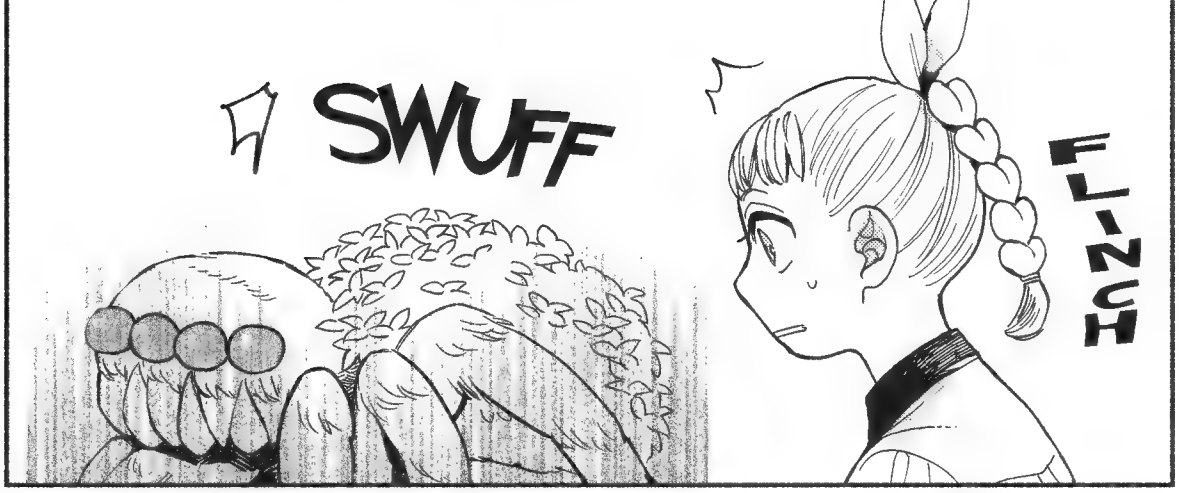
GULP!
Aaahm!

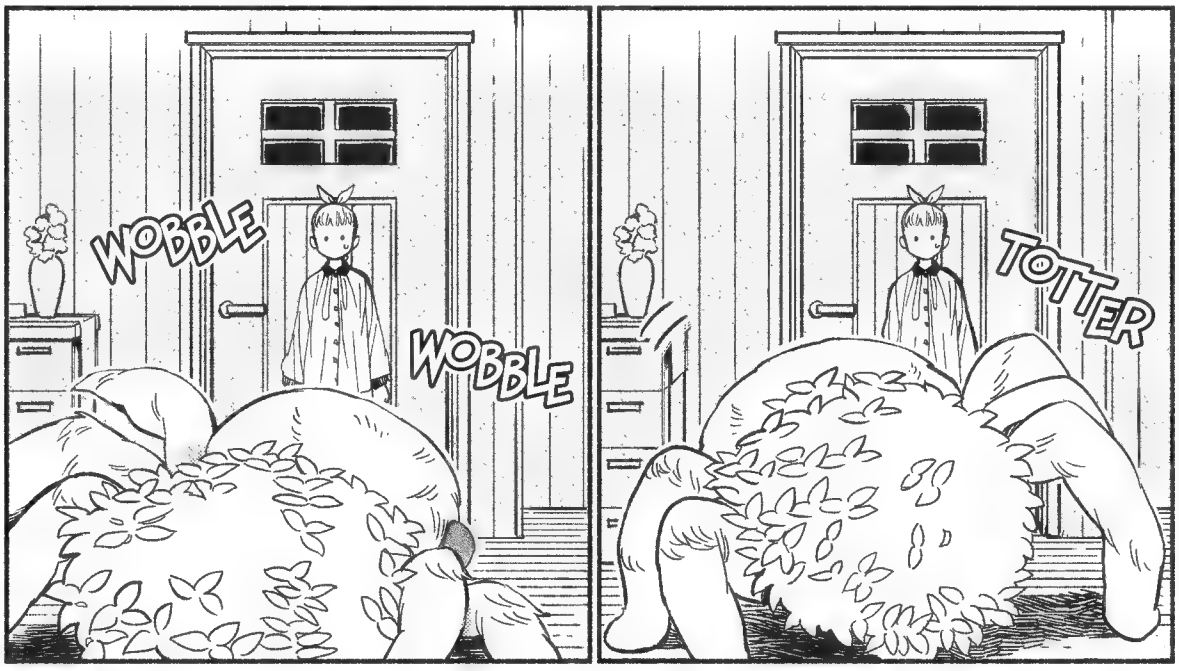
THERE! DONE.
TUNK
MY FAVORITE NOTES
BIOLOGY
PLANT LIFE
NEO BIO

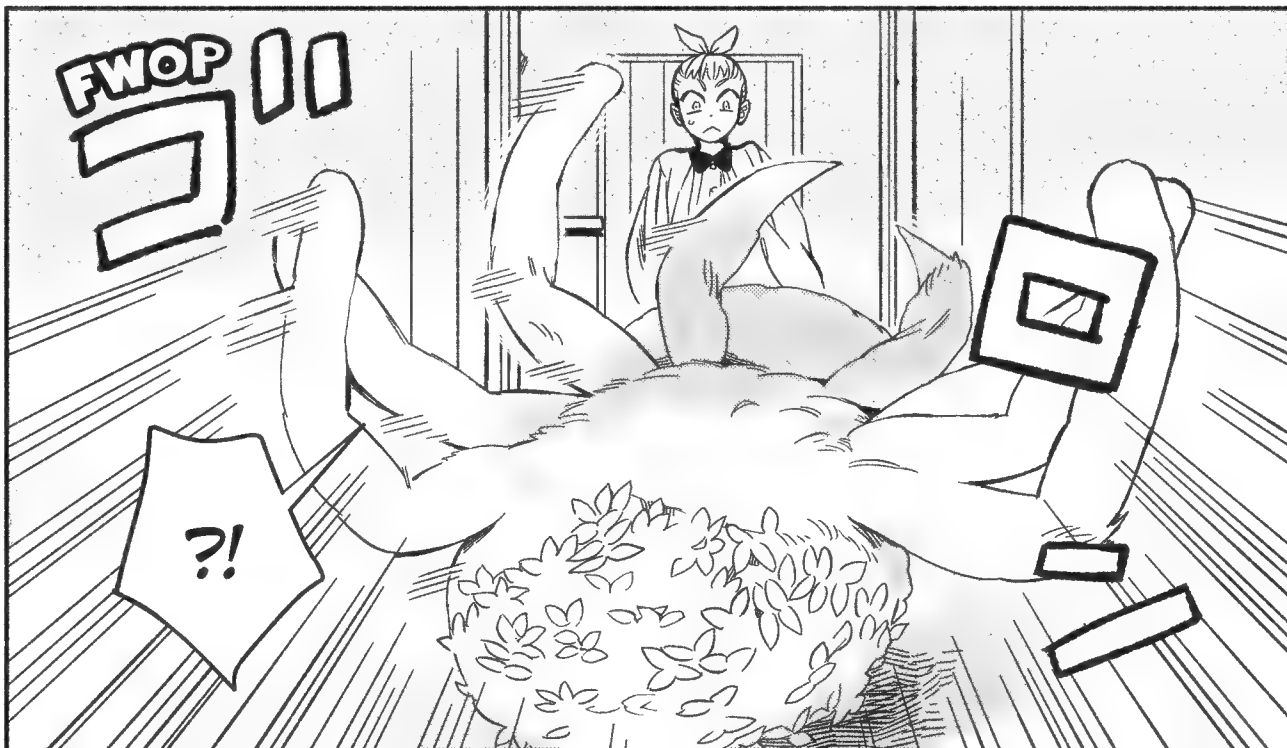

FWIII
IISH

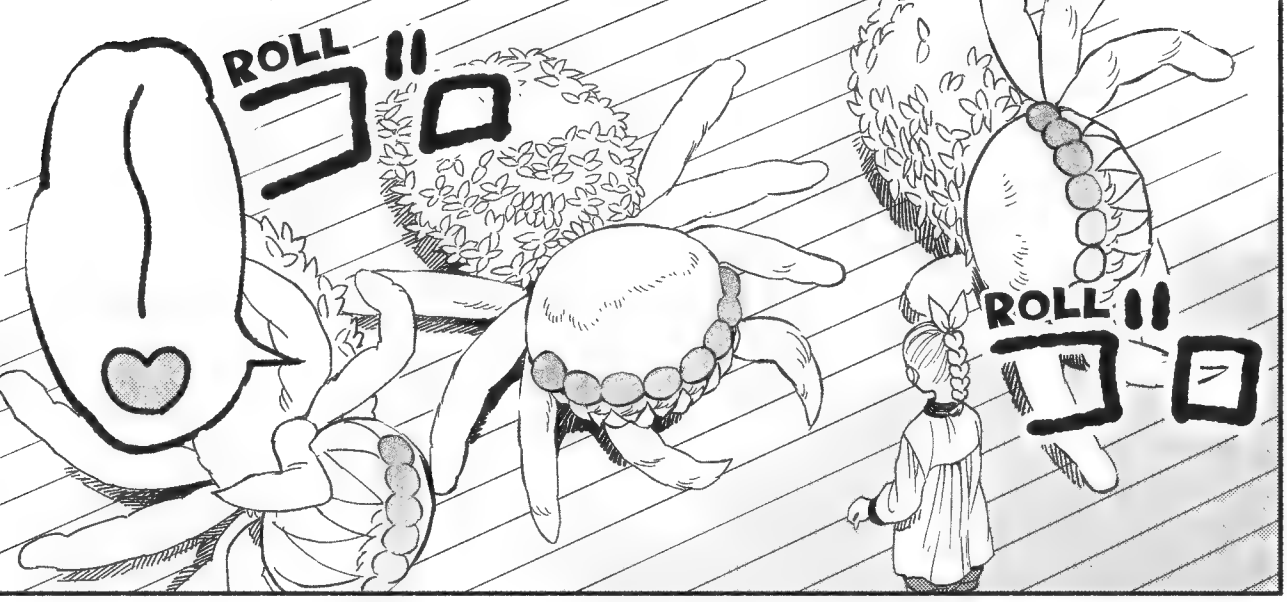

FEELS LIKE THERE'S RAIN ON THE WAY, TOO.
SHHK
IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT TIME TO BRING OUT THE HEATER.
IT'S SURE STARTING TO GET CHILLY AT NIGHT.

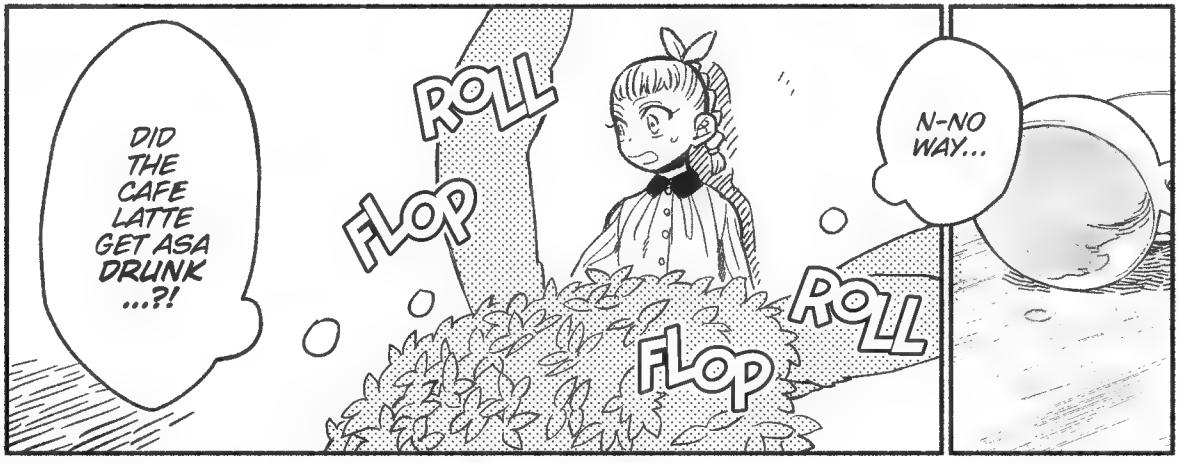
HMM?
KREE...
BTAM
FLOP
UM, ASA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


SWUFF
FLINCH


WOBBLE
WOBBLE
TOTTER


FWOP
?!


ROLL
コロ
ROLL
コロ

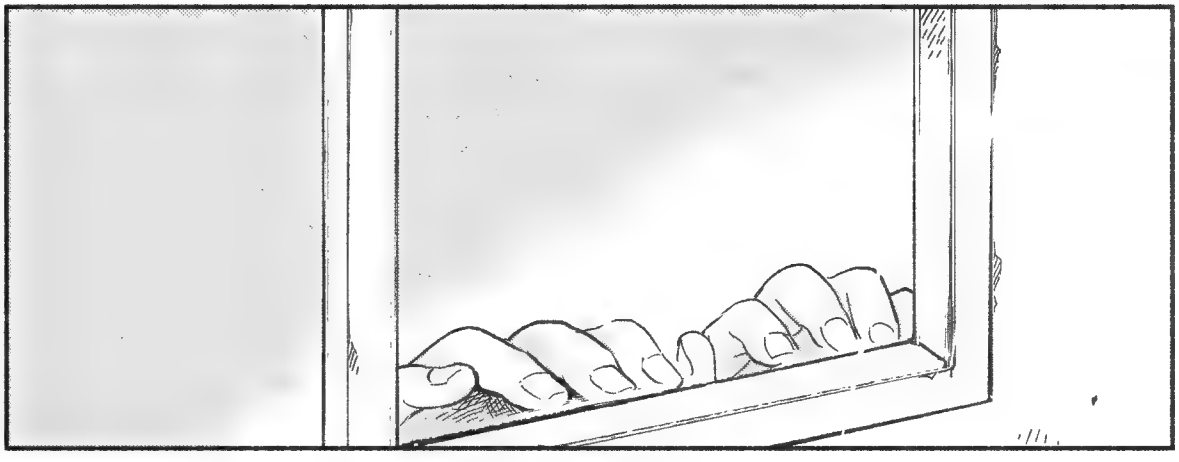

DID THE CAFE LATTE GET ASA DRUNK ...?!
ROLL
FLOP
FLOP
ROLL
N-NO WAY...

.....
Hee!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
OH MY GOSH, ARE YOU OKAY?!
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
GYUUU!
GLOMP
YIKES!

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
YOU'RE ACTING KIND OF LIKE A CAT THAT GOT INTO CATNIP...!
KRAA ASH
AAAAAAH!!
I JUST FINISHED CLEANING ALL THAT UP!!

Chapter 4: Unexpected Visitors & Warm Turnip Soup

RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL...
ZSSSSSSHHHHH
POLLO

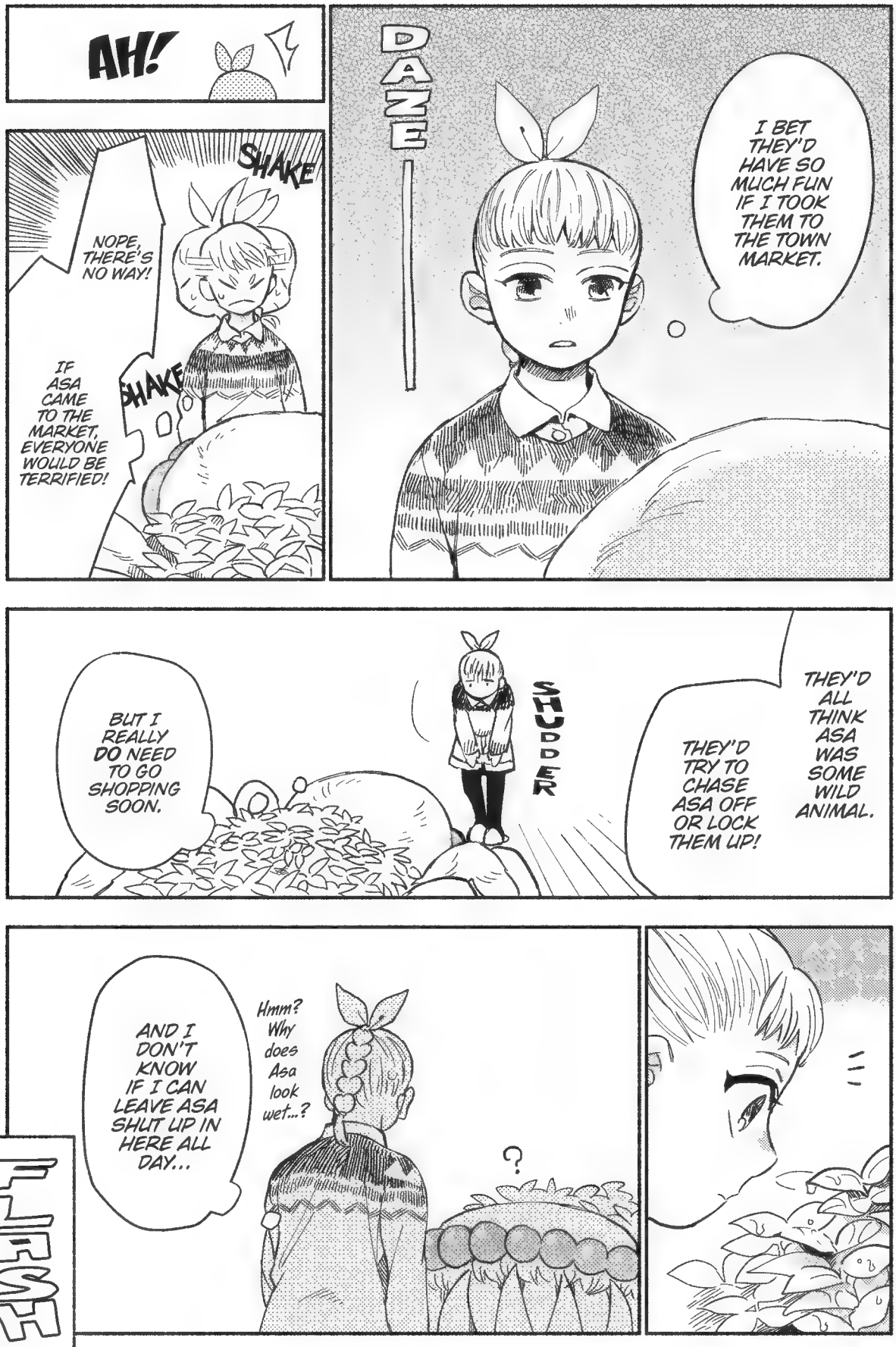


DARN, IT'S RAINING AGAIN.
IT FINALLY LOOKED LIKE WE MIGHT GET A BREAK...
KWAAAH
RUMMAGE
RSTL
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO MESS AROUND WITH DAD'S THINGS?!
SWF
HEY...! ASA...!

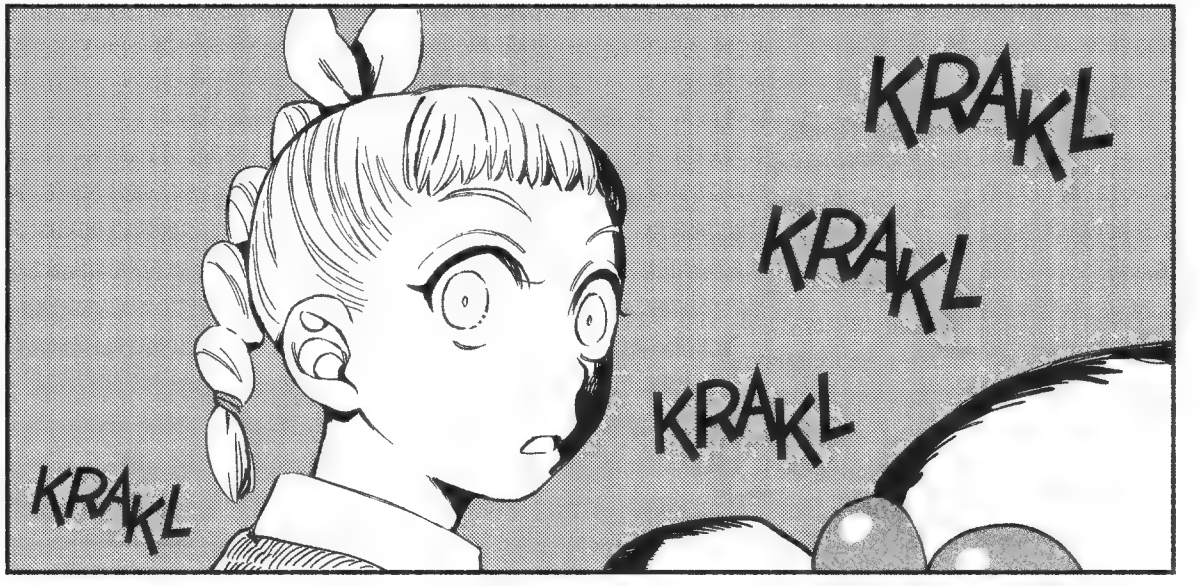
YOU MUST'VE REALLY GONE DIGGING TO FIND THIS!
OH, THIS IS A MODEL OF A THING CALLED AN "AIRPLANE."
HMM?
Like, thiiiiis big!
AIRPLANES USED TO BE REAL THINGS! THEY WERE HUGE, AND EVERYWHERE!
ZWIP ZWIP
THAT? THAT'S, UM...
LOOKS LIKE ASA DISCOVERED A NEW GAME...
ZWISH
WORLD MAPS
NOD NOD
OH, THIS?
IT'S A BOOK OF MAPS.

CARAMELS...
CARAMEL
I feel all nostalgic now!
I REMEMBER THIS CAN!
WE GOT THIS A LONG TIME AGO IN OUR RATIONS!
OH!

SNIF
SNIF
.....
I'D LOVE TO HAVE THEM AGAIN SOME-DAY!
I HAD CARAMELS ONCE WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE.
THEY WERE CHEWY AND SWEET! SOOO YUMMY!
WOW, ASA ALWAYS FINDS SOMETHING TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT.
STARE

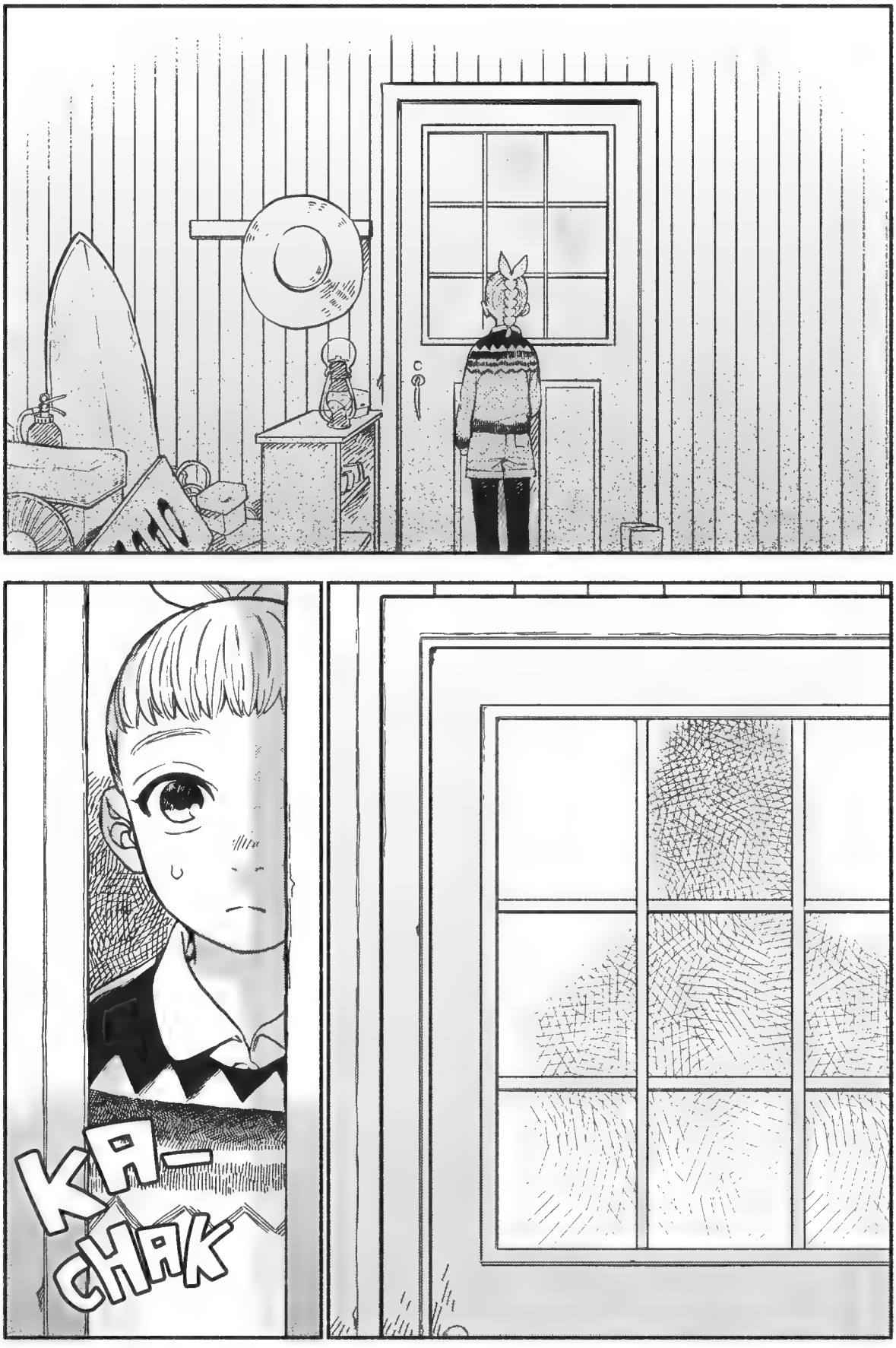

AH!
SHAKE
NOPE, THERE'S NO WAY!
SHAKE
IF ASA CAME TO THE MARKET, EVERYONE WOULD BE TERRIFIED!
DAZE
I BET THEY'D HAVE SO MUCH FUN IF I TOOK THEM TO THE TOWN MARKET.
SHUDDER
BUT I REALLY DO NEED TO GO SHOPPING SOON.
THEY'D TRY TO CHASE ASA OFF OR LOCK THEM UP!
THEY'D ALL THINK ASA WAS SOME WILD ANIMAL.
AND I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN LEAVE ASA SHUT UP IN HERE ALL DAY...
Hmm? Why does Asa look wet...?
?
FLASH

KRA-BOOOOOM


KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL

YIKES! THAT STARTLED ME.
IT MUST'VE STRUCK SOMEPLACE NEARBY.
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL...
SHVR
SHVR
SHVR
Why am I not surprised?
ASA...?
...
TOK TOK
YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE LOUD NOISES.
It's okay. We're safe.

NOK
NOK
!
HUH? WAS THAT...
A VISITOR? IN A STORM LIKE THIS...?
I'LL GO SEE WHO IT IS.
YOU STAY THERE, ASA.
TMPA
TMPA


KA-
CHAK

DRIP
HELLO THERE.

OH.
H-HELLO...
GASP
GLOOM
SORRY. I GUESS I MUST'VE STARTLED YOU.
I KNOW HOW I MUST LOOK, ALL COVERED IN MUD AND STUFF, BUT I SWEAR I'M NOT SOME SKETCHY GUY.
I had an umbrella, but it broke.
THAT HUGE LIGHTNING STRIKE A FEW MINUTES AGO CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD, AND...
I KINDA FACE-PLANTED IN A GIANT MUD PUDDLE.
THAT'S WHY I'M SUCH A MESS... HA HA...
MUMBL
MUMBL
.....

Thank you for sympathizing with an adult who's down on his luck!
FOR ME?! THAT'S SO KIND OF YOU!
SHAKE
SHAKE
UM... I HAVE A TOWEL, AND I CAN LEND YOU AN UMBRELLA IF YOU'D LIKE.
HUH?
STARE
OH!
BUT ACTU-ALLY, THE REASON I CAME BY IS--

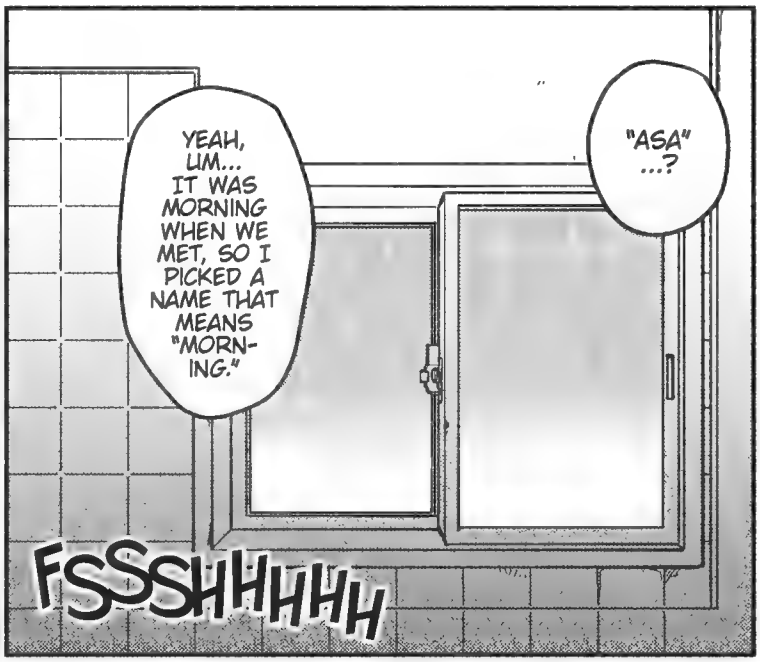
FAINT
Ah.
?
FLINCH
Whoops!!
TH-
WHUD
MISTER
?!
fSSSHHH

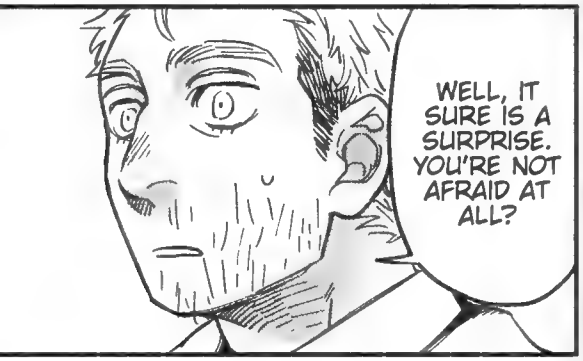
NNNH...
OH...! YOU'RE AWAKE, MISTER?
RSTL
WHERE'M I...?
YOU, UH...

SURE, THAT'S GREAT.
THANKS.
.....
Huh?
I hung your wet clothes up to dry.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT I BROUGHT YOU IN-DOORS.
MY NAME'S NAGI.
WELLLLLL, ABOUT THAT...
YOU CARRIED ME ALL THE WAY IN HERE?
HMM?
WAIT A MINUTE...

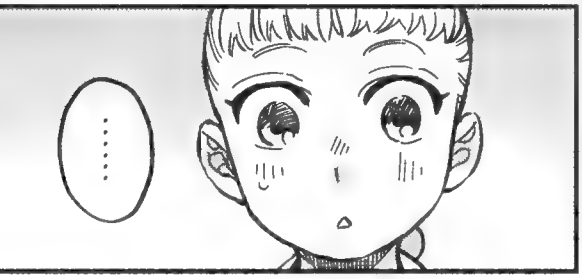
.....
RUB
RUB
.....
OH. I DIDN'T DREAM THAT PART...
I'VE NEVER SEEN A CREATURE LIKE THIS.
IS IT A SPIDER? OR AN ENTIRELY NEW SPECIES?
SKITTER
THEIR NAME IS ASA.

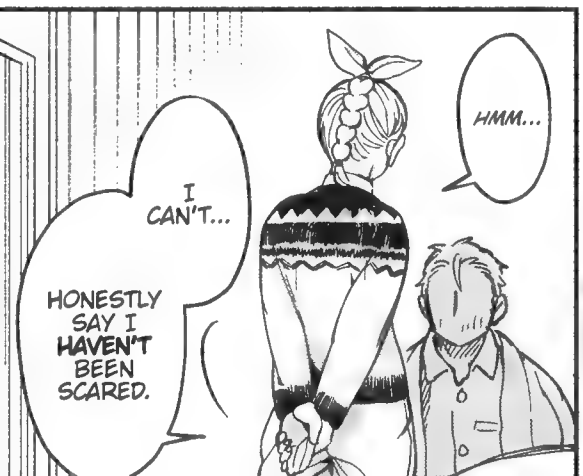
DOES ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT, ER... ASA?
SO YOU'RE BASICALLY ITS OWNER, THEN?


"ASA" ...?
YEAH, UM... IT WAS MORNING WHEN WE MET, SO I PICKED A NAME THAT MEANS "MORNING."
FSSSHHHHH

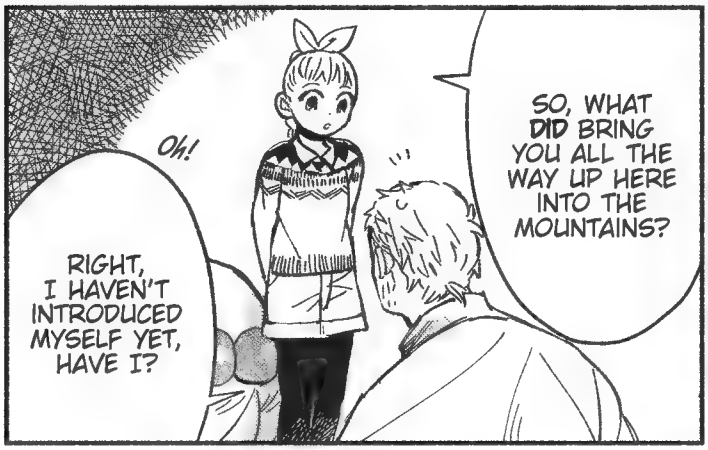

WELL, IT SURE IS A SURPRISE. YOU'RE NOT AFRAID AT ALL?

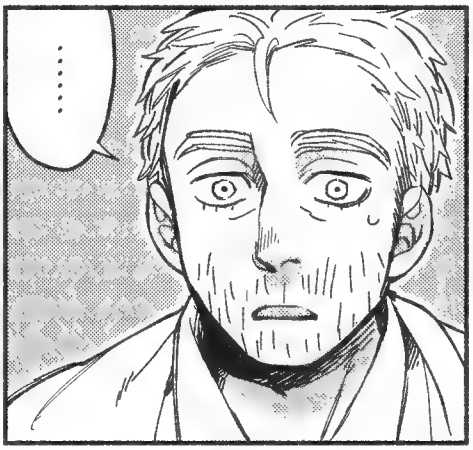
NO ONE ELSE HAS MET THEM.
ASA'S LIVED WITH ME SINCE THE DAY WE MET.

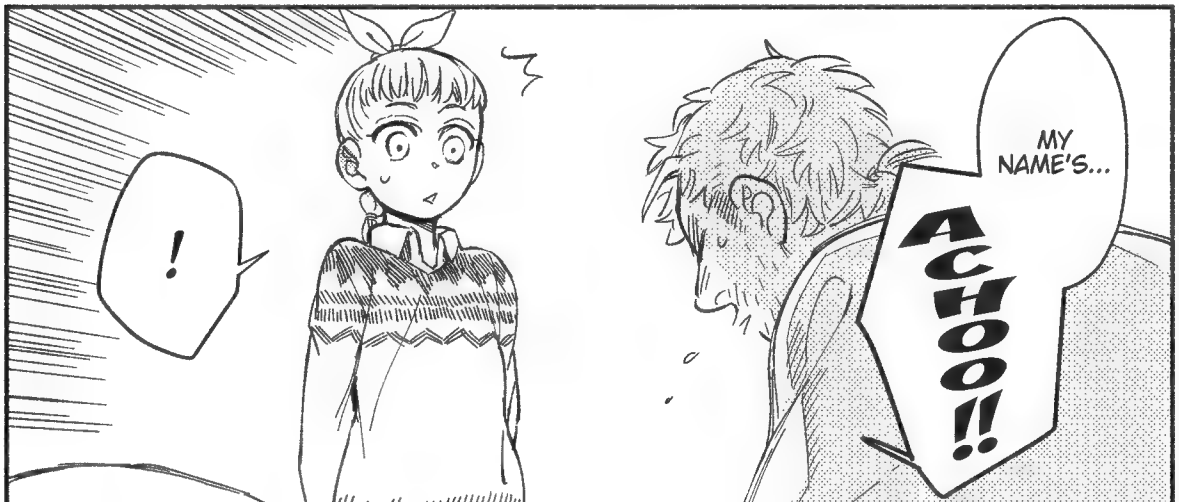

.....


HMM...
I CAN'T...
HONESTLY SAY I HAVEN'T BEEN SCARED.

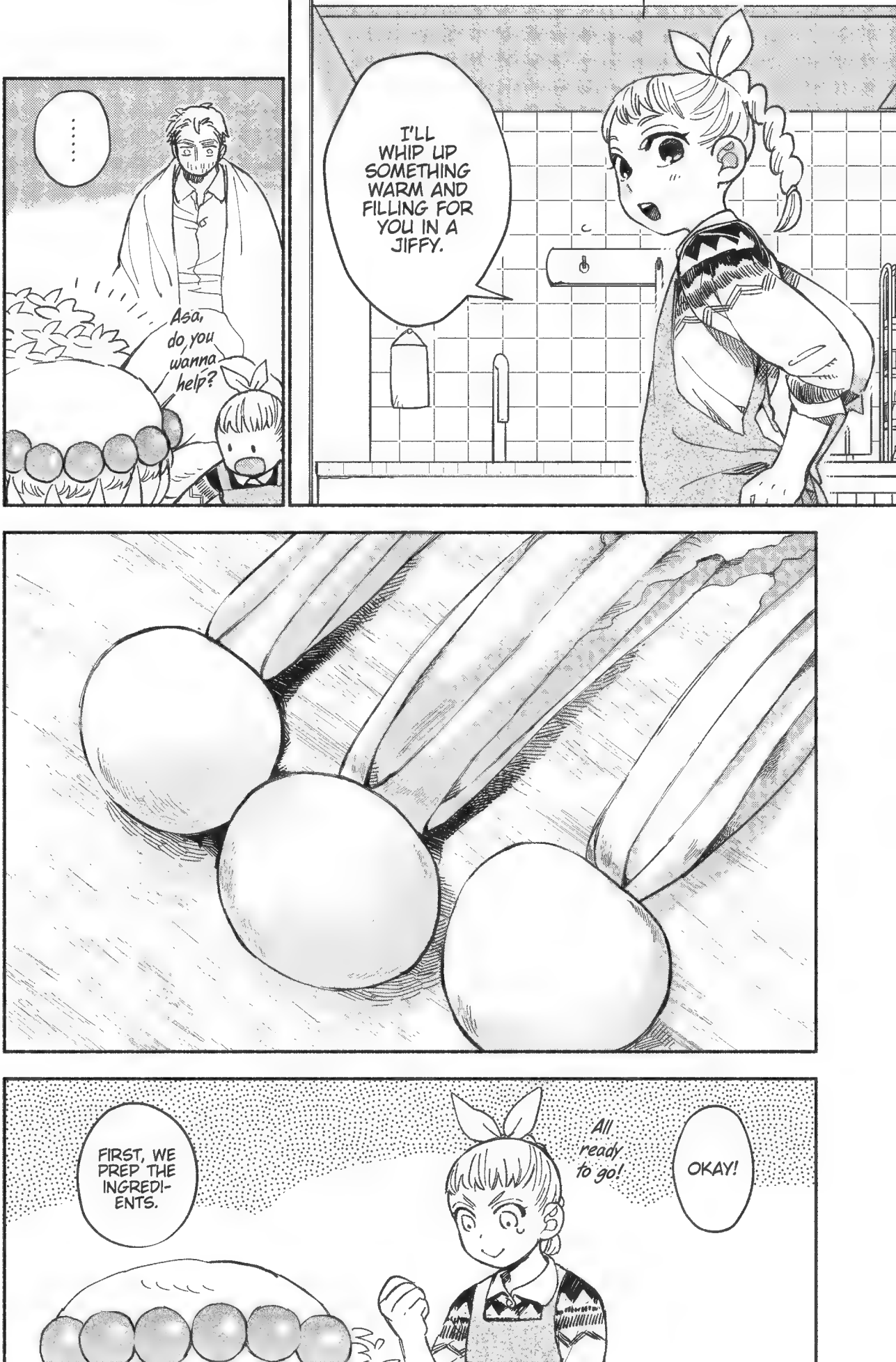
BUT...
ASA AND I LIVE TOGETHER NOW!


SO, WHAT DID BRING YOU ALL THE WAY UP HERE INTO THE MOUNTAINS?
OH!
RIGHT, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET, HAVE I?


.....


MY NAME'S...
ACHOO!!
!

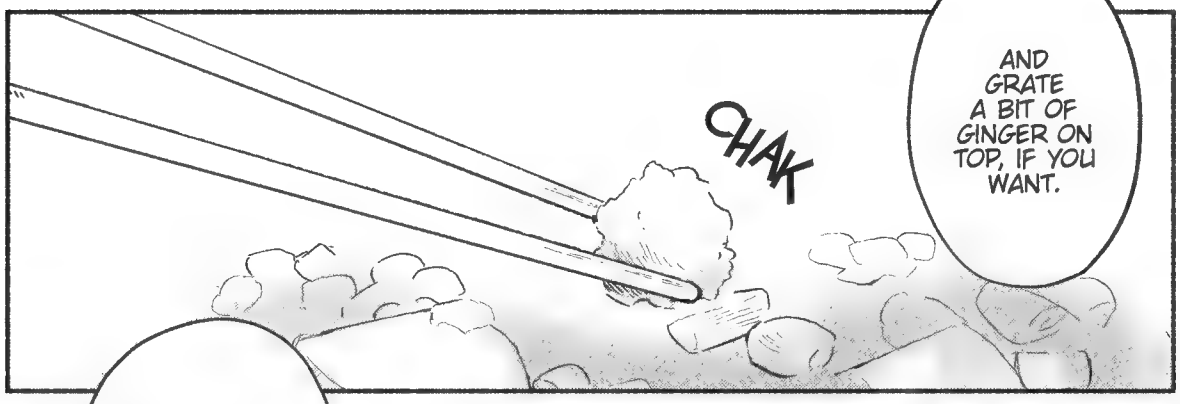
DASH
GIVE ME JUST A MINUTE, MISTER!
BUH...?
OH NO! DID YOU CATCH A COLD?
You did get drenched in the rain...
SNRRRF
NO, NO, I'M FINE.
MY NOSE GOT A LITTLE PRICKLY, THAT'S ALL.
.....
WAH-CHOO !!
FWIF
SWUFF

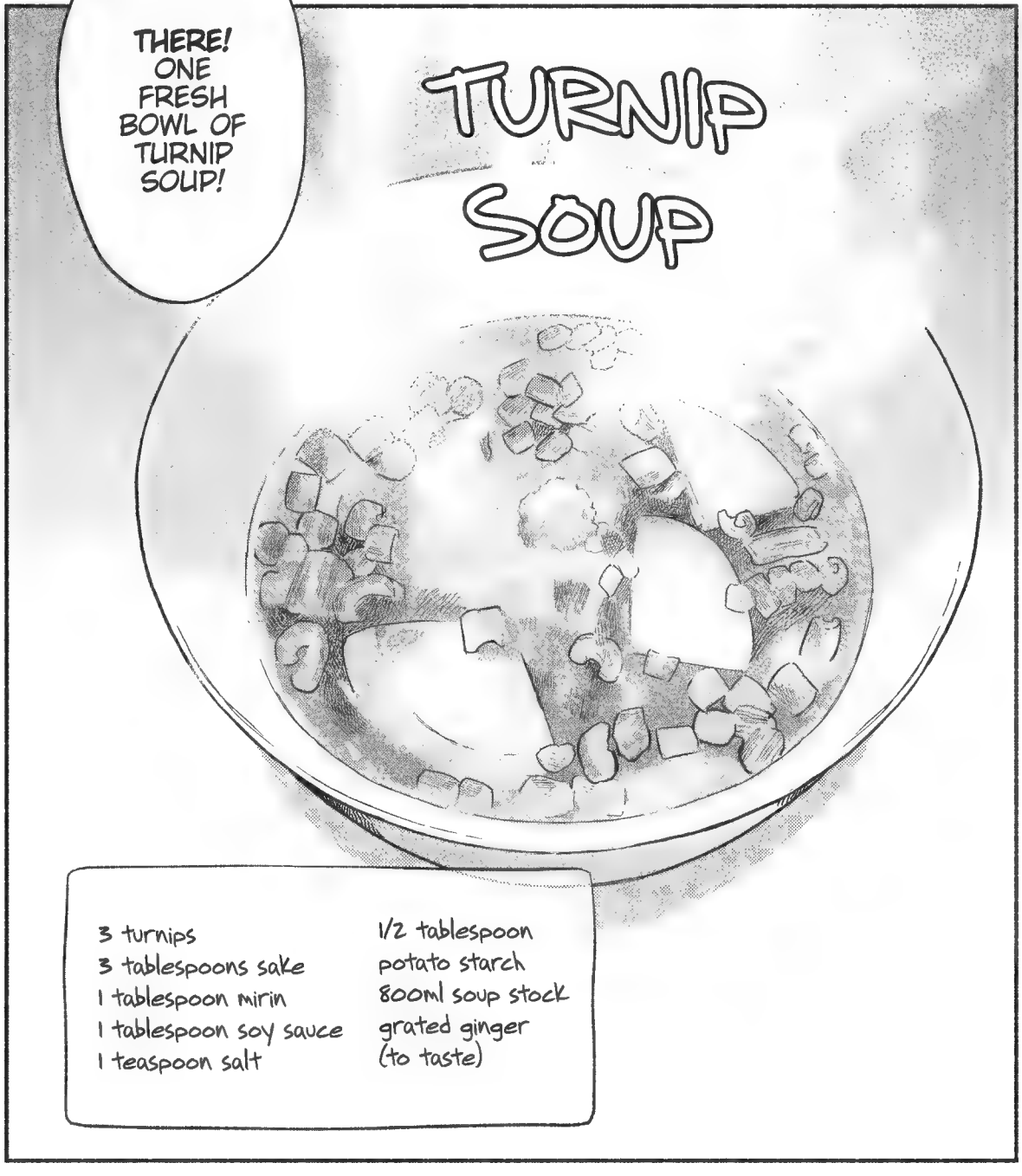

I'LL WHIP UP SOMETHING WARM AND FILLING FOR YOU IN A JIFFY.
Asa, do you wanna help?
.....
FIRST, WE PREP THE INGREDI-ENTS.
All ready to go!
OKAY!

WE'LL CHOP ONE TURNIP INTO EIGHTHS OR SO.
CUT THE STEMS OFF THREE TURNIP BULBS.
CHOP
THEN WE'LL GRATE THE OTHER TWO UP.
That's it! Good job, Asa!
SLSSH
SLSSH
HEY, DID YOU KNOW...
That's why you wanna use them, not throw them away!
THERE'S EVEN MORE NUTRITION IN A TURNIP'S STEMS AND LEAVES THAN THE BULB?
WE'LL DICE UP THE STEMS INTO PIECES ABOUT ONE CENTIMETER LONG.
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

ADD SOME COOKING SAKE, MIRIN, SOY SAUCE, A BIT OF SALT...
NEXT, FISH STOCK! WE'LL USE BONITO AND KONBU SEA-WEED.
THEN WE PUT IN THE TURNIP CHUNKS FROM EARLIER.
PLISH
SET THE HEAT TO MEDIUM-HIGH AND LET THE TURNIPS SIMMER UNTIL THEY'RE TENDER.
BRBL
BRBL

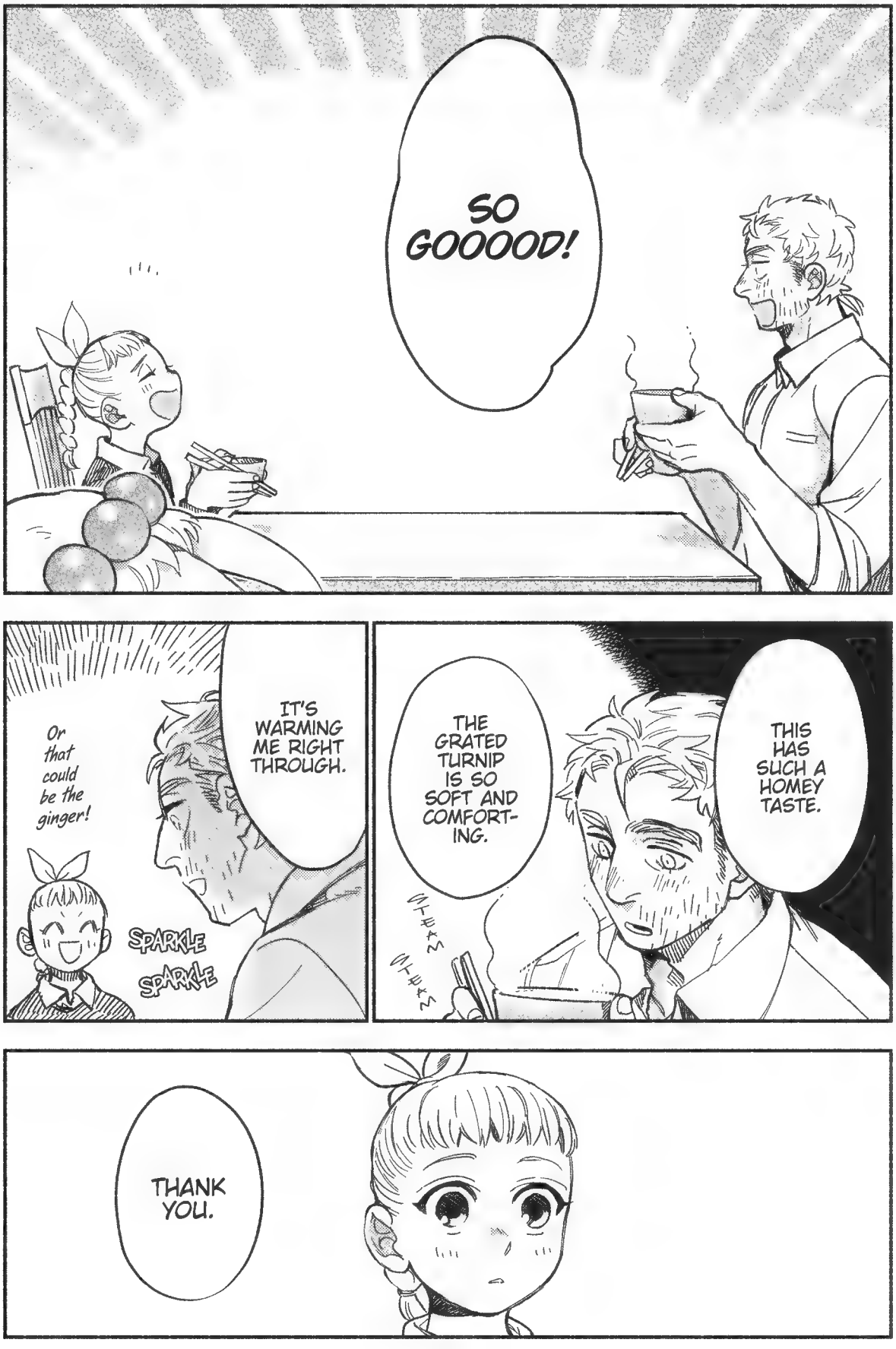
WE'LL ADD THE GRATED TURNIP AND DICED STEMS...
AND BRING IT BACK TO A BOIL.
ONCE THE CHUNKS ARE TENDER ENOUGH...
Mm! The broth smells so good!
LADLE IT INTO BOWLS...
SLURP
STIR
STIR
THEN, WHEN IT'S NEARLY READY TO SERVE, WE'LL ADD SOME POTATO STARCH-- WHILE STIRRING!
TO THICKEN THE BROTH UP NICELY.

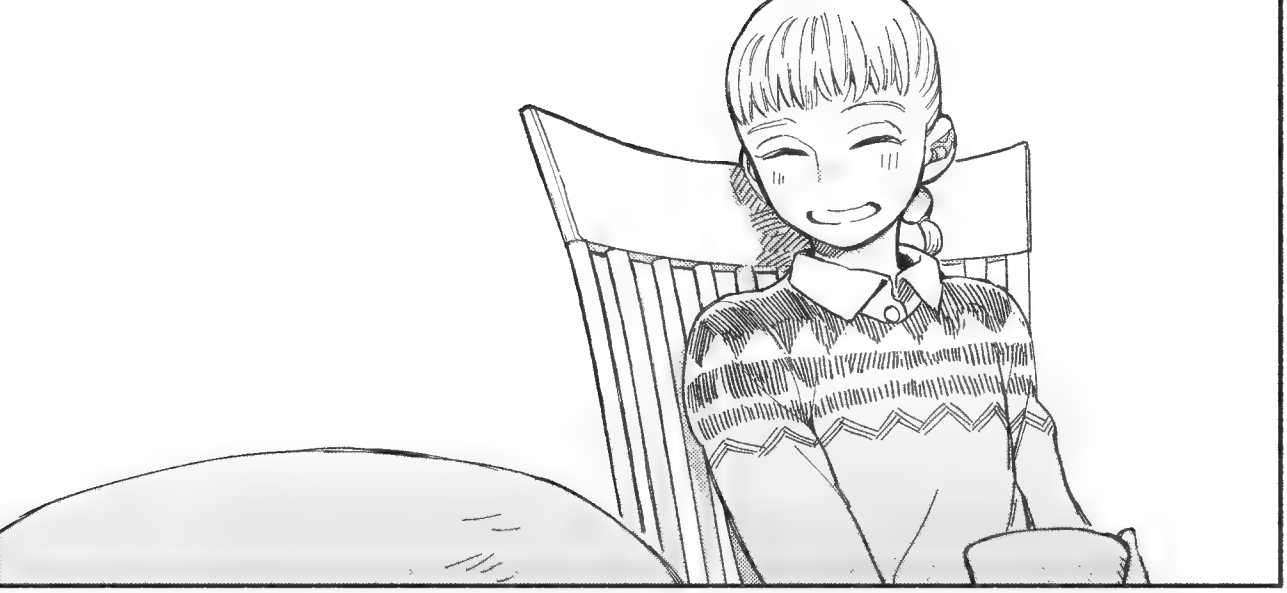


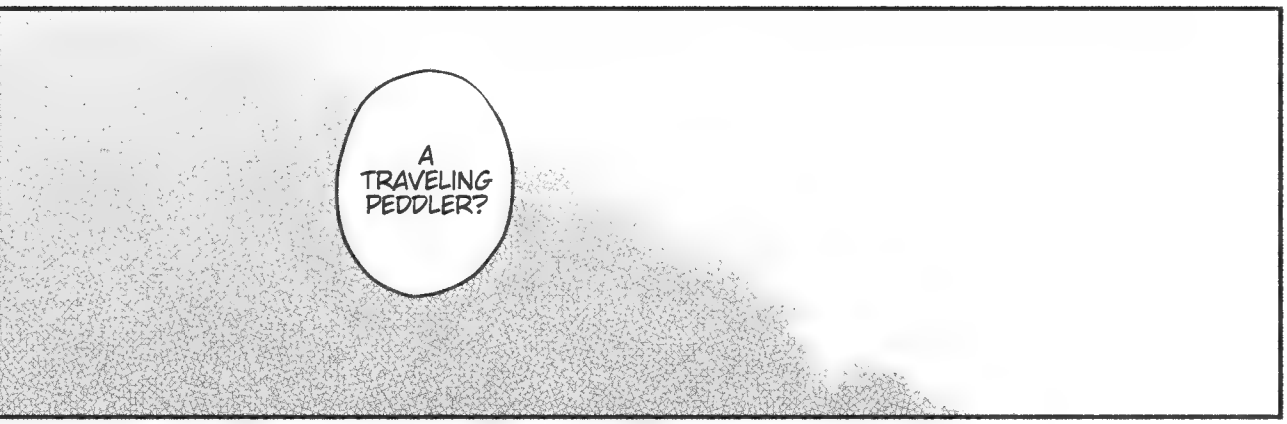


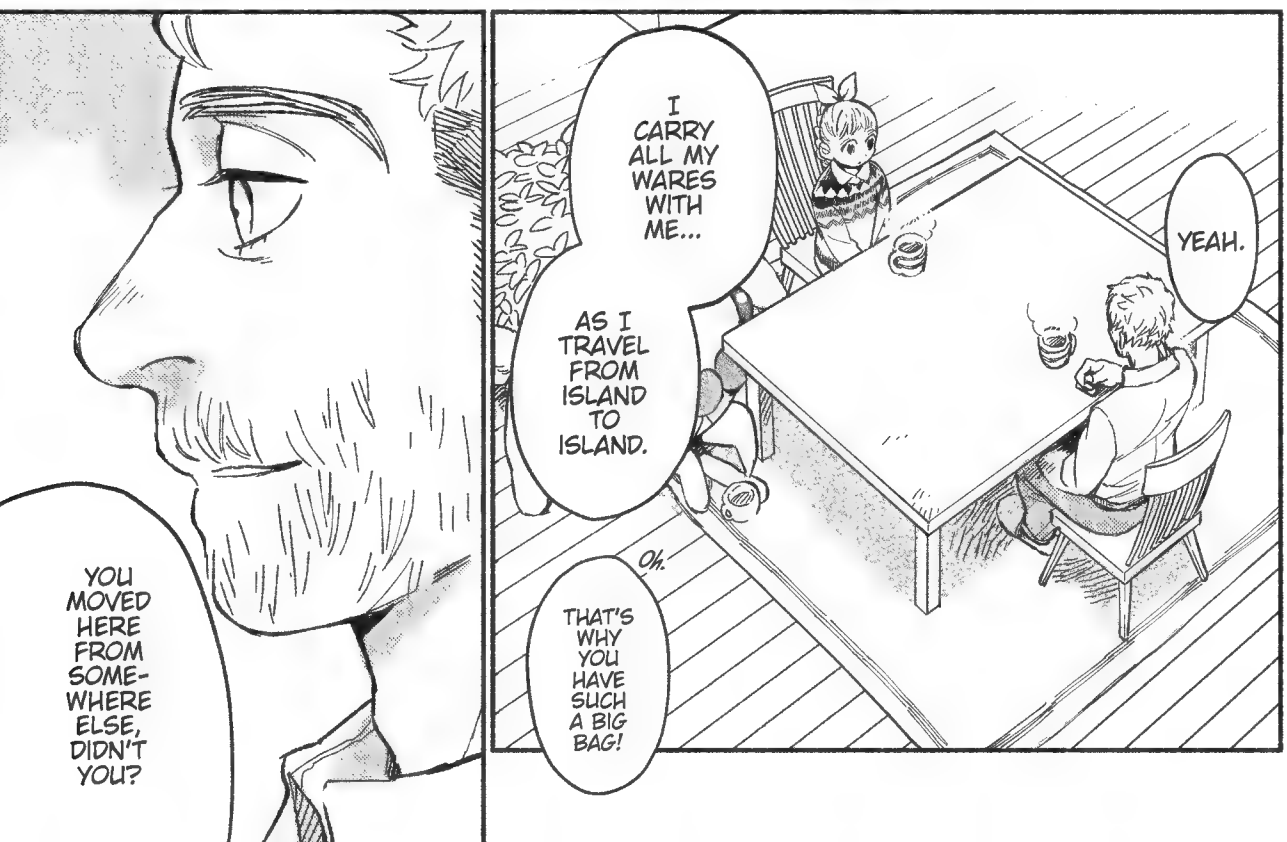
3 turnips
3 tablespoons sake
1 tablespoon mirin
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 tablespoon potato starch
800ml soup stock
grated ginger (to taste)

HERE YOU GO!
THANK YOU...
Ooh...
YEAH, THIS REALLY LOOKS LIKE IT'LL HIT THE SPOT.
HAFF
HAFF
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.

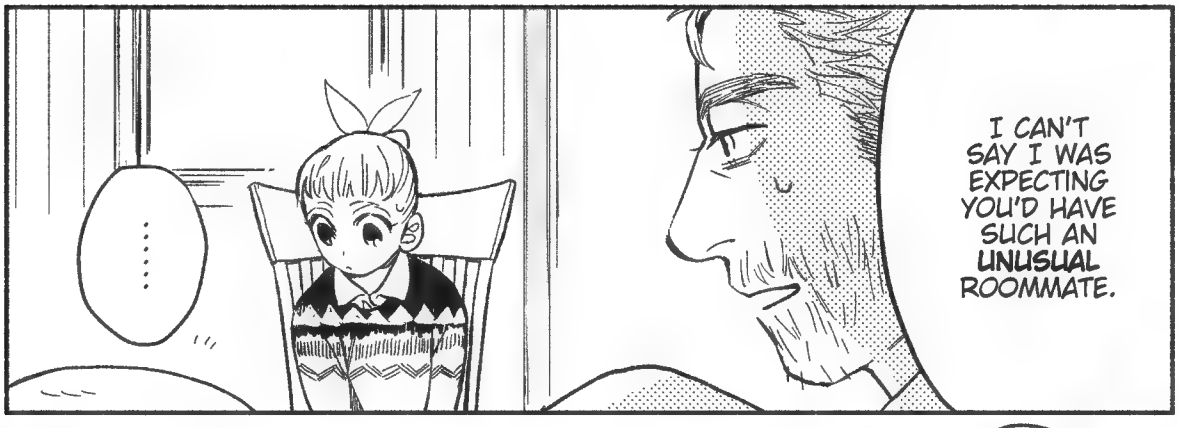

SO GOOOOD!
THIS HAS SUCH A HOMEY TASTE.
THE GRATED TURNIP IS SO SOFT AND COMFORT-ING.
SUSHUU
SUSHUU
IT'S WARMING ME RIGHT THROUGH.
Or that could be the ginger!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
THANK YOU.

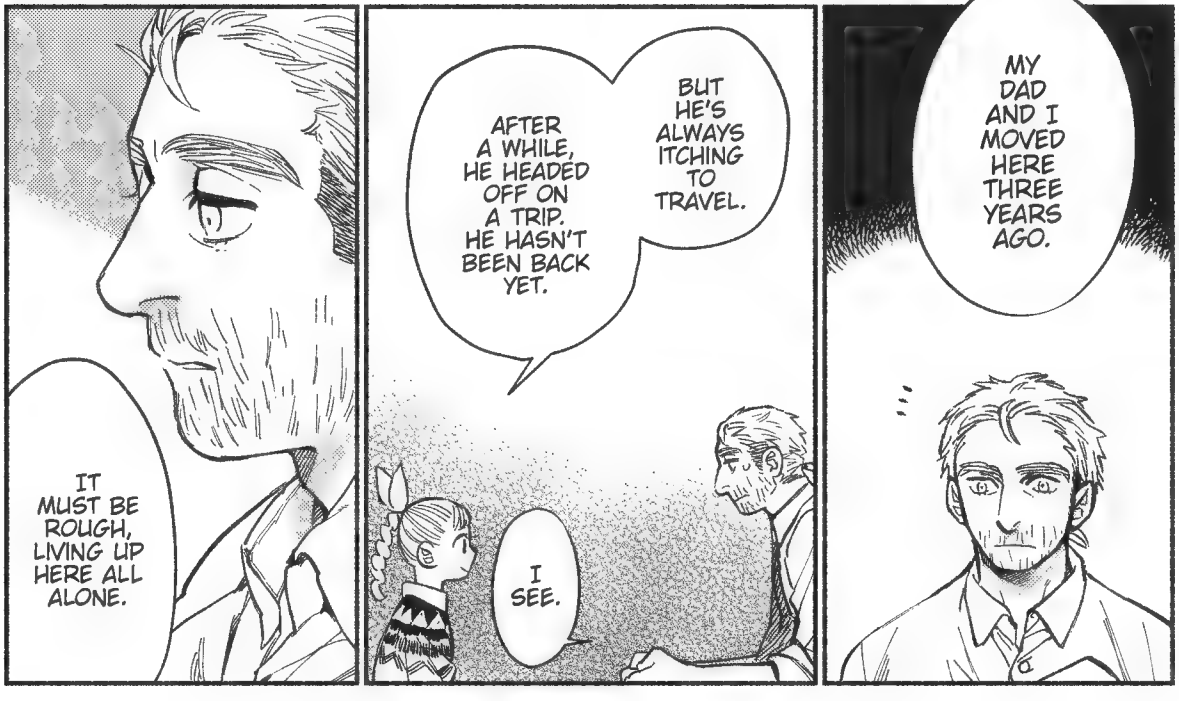



A TRAVELING PEDDLER?


I CARRY ALL MY WARES WITH ME...
AS I TRAVEL FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND.
YEAH.
OH.
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE SUCH A BIG BAG!
YOU MOVED HERE FROM SOME-WHERE ELSE, DIDN'T YOU?

SEE, I HAVE A DAUGHTER ABOUT YOUR AGE.
SO WHEN I HEARD THERE WAS A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL...
Siiigh...
LIVING ALL BY HERSELF UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, I GOT A LITTLE WORRIED.
HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
SOME PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN DOWN THERE TOLD ME.


I CAN'T SAY I WAS EXPECTING YOU'D HAVE SUCH AN **UNUSUAL** ROOMMATE.
.....

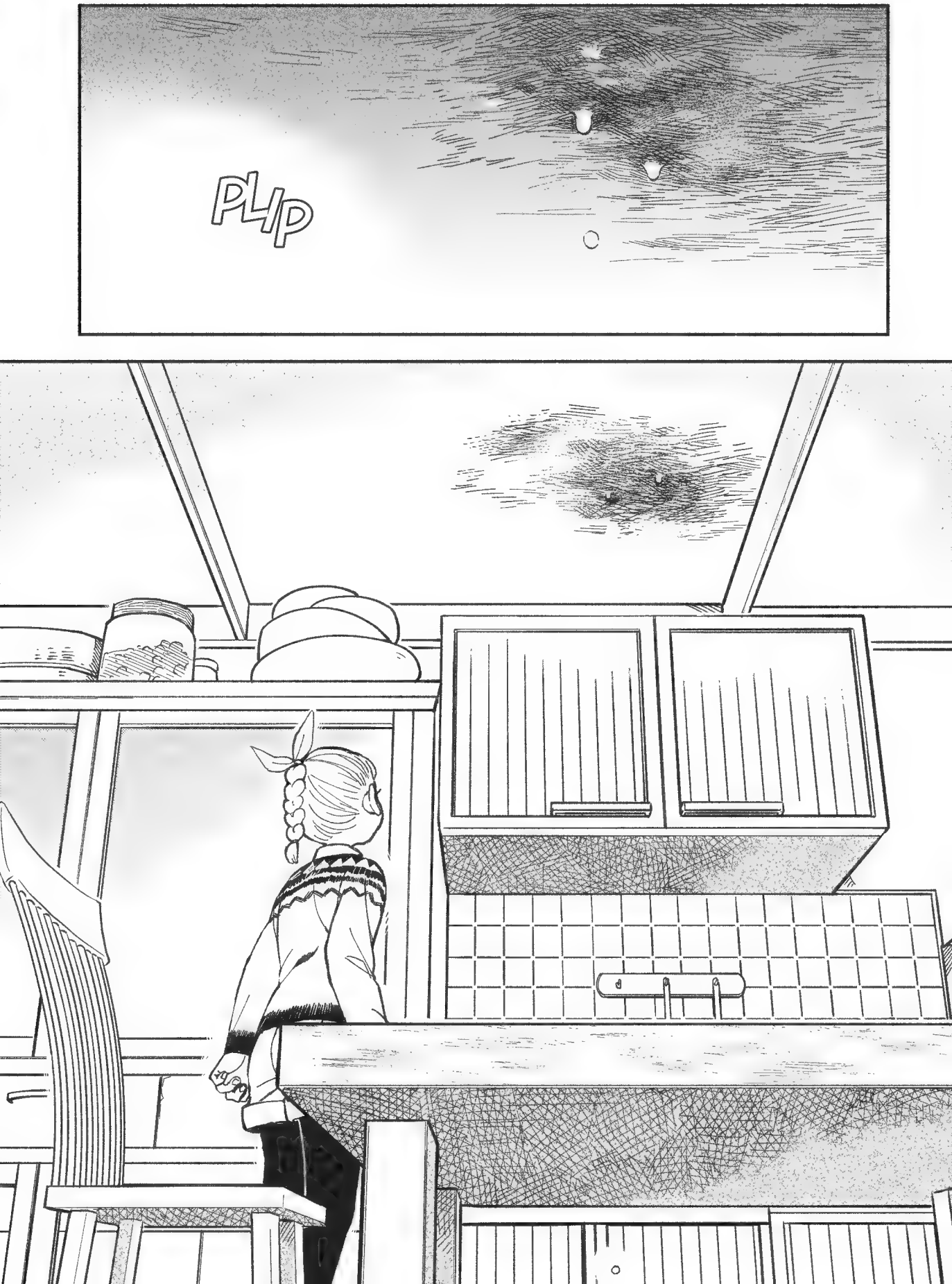

MY DAD AND I MOVED HERE THREE YEARS AGO.
BUT HE'S ALWAYS ITCHING TO TRAVEL.
AFTER A WHILE, HE HEADED OFF ON A TRIP. HE HASN'T BEEN BACK YET.
I SEE.
IT MUST BE ROUGH, LIVING UP HERE ALL ALONE.

I'M USED TO IT.
BESIDES, NOW ASA KEEPS ME COMPANY.
I'LL BE FINE.
I NOTICED IT WHEN YOU TWO WERE COOKING.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M AMAZED.
?
YOU AND ASA-KUN...
MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER, BUT...
IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT YOU HAVE SOME REAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN YOU.

I GUESS BECAUSE...
WE BOTH WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER.
R-REALLY...?
I WONDER WHY.
HMM?
KTJNK
IT MAKES ME WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU, TOO.
AHH.
!
CAN WE BE FRIENDS?
Here.
WELL, ASA-KUN? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

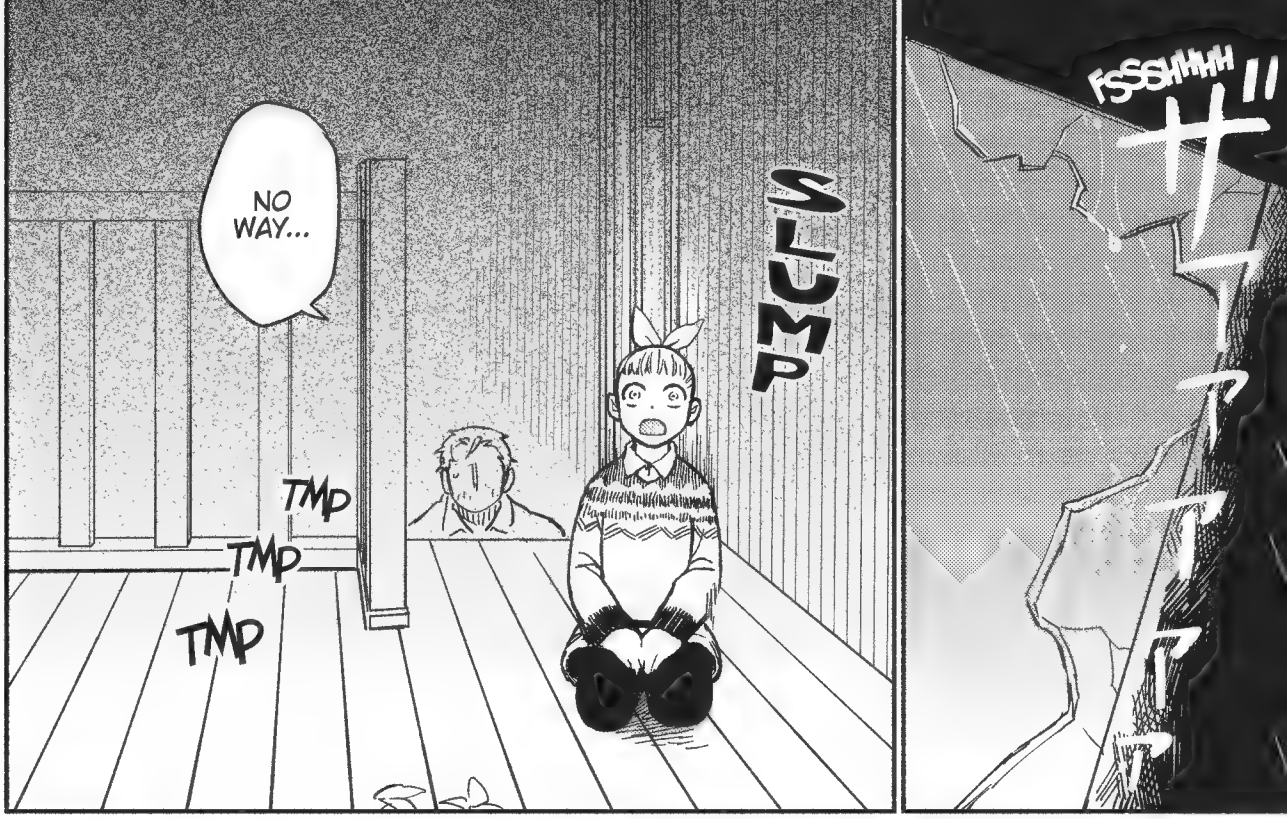
STARE
STARE
SHLURP
SHIVER
AAAAH! HA HA HA HA!
CLIP

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING DRIP.
BESIDES THE RAIN, YOU MEAN?
HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
PUP
PUP
KTUNK
I KNEW IT!


PLIP

DASH
YEP. THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LEAKY ROOF.
Uh-oh...
NAGI-CHAN?!
TMP
TMP
TMP

HWOOOO


NO WAY...
TMP
TMP
TMP
SLUMP
FSSHHHH!!

THAT WOULDN'T JUST HAPPEN.
A WILD ANIMAL OR A PERSON MUST'VE DONE IT.
THAT'S ONE HECK OF A HOLE.

WHAT'S THIS ...?
THIS SPRIG OF LEAVES LOOKS FAMILIAR. WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT...?
DAZE!!
AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!
?!

SNFL
THIS IS HOW ASA'S BEEN GETTING IN AND OUT! I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT TO LOOK...!
No wonder Asa was wet this morning.
SNFL
SNFL
...?
YEAH, WITH A HOLE THAT BIG, YOU'RE GONNA NEED A PRO TO FIX IT.
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
The tools you have here aren't up to it.
Darn...
STILL...
THIS COULD HAVE A SILVER LINING.

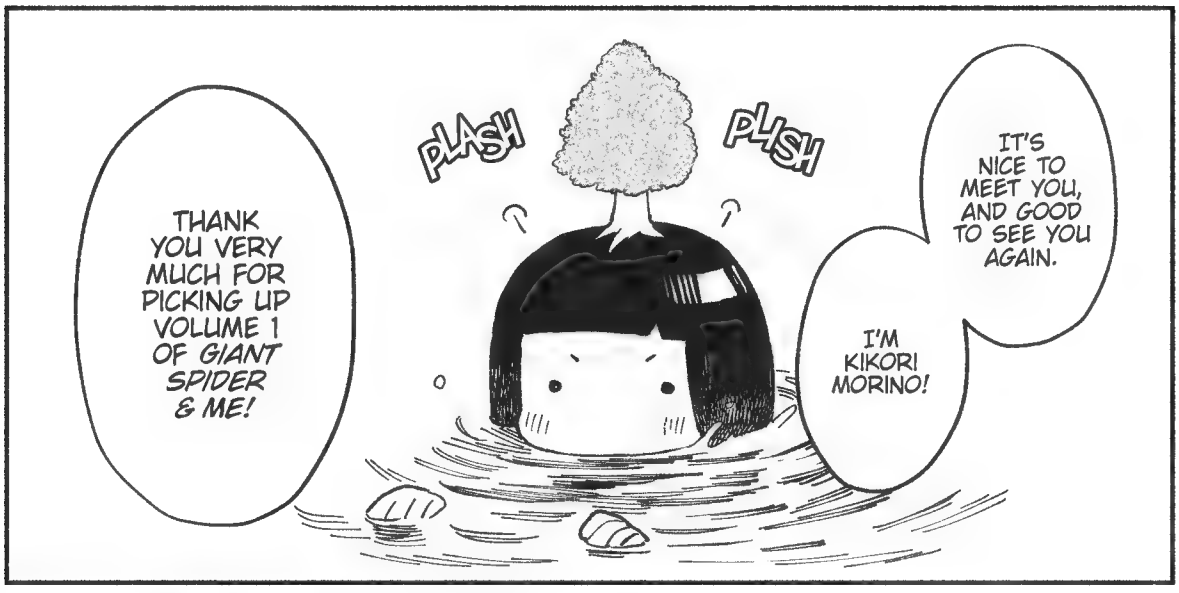
HUH?!
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE HERE TO FIX THIS, RIGHT?
HUH? HOW SO?
WELL, THIS GIVES YOU THE CHANCE TO INTRODUCE ASA TO THE VILLAGERS.
WE CAN'T JUST LET THE RAIN KEEP COMING IN.
THE WATER'LL ROT THE FLOOR-BOARDS.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN RIG UP SOME-THING TO COVER IT.

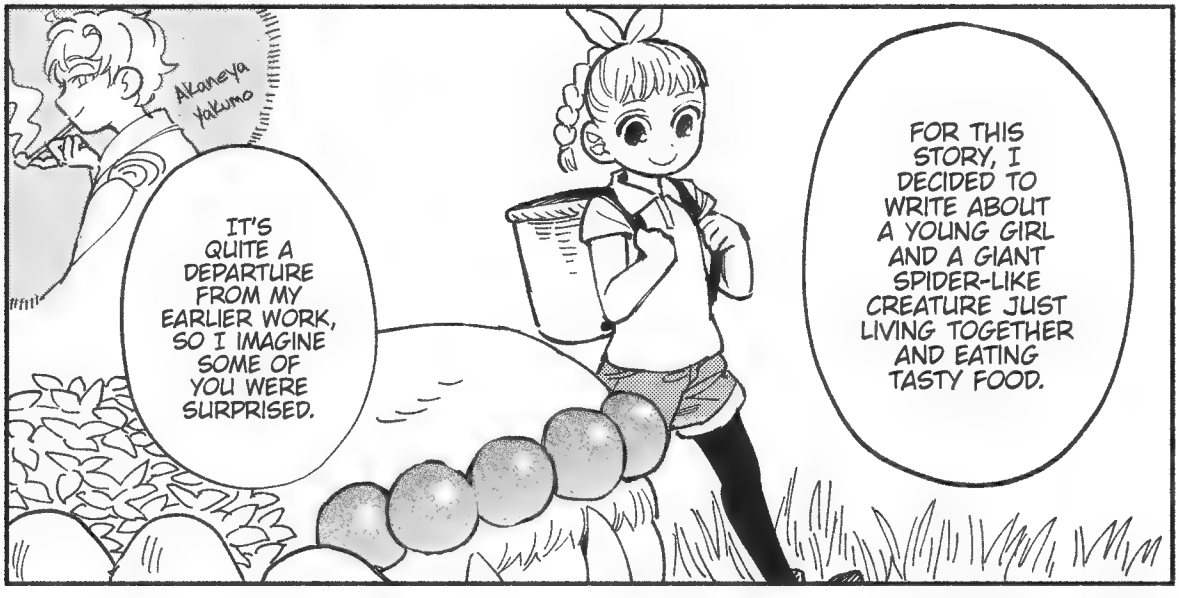
DO YOU HAVE ANY LARGE BOARDS, OR SOMETHING SIMILAR?
Um...
WELL, THERE'S SOME LUMBER OUTSIDE...
OKAY! NOW FOR THE MANUAL LABOR.
LET'S HEAD OUT-DOORS.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A NEW DOOR FOR YOU, ASA.
Whew...

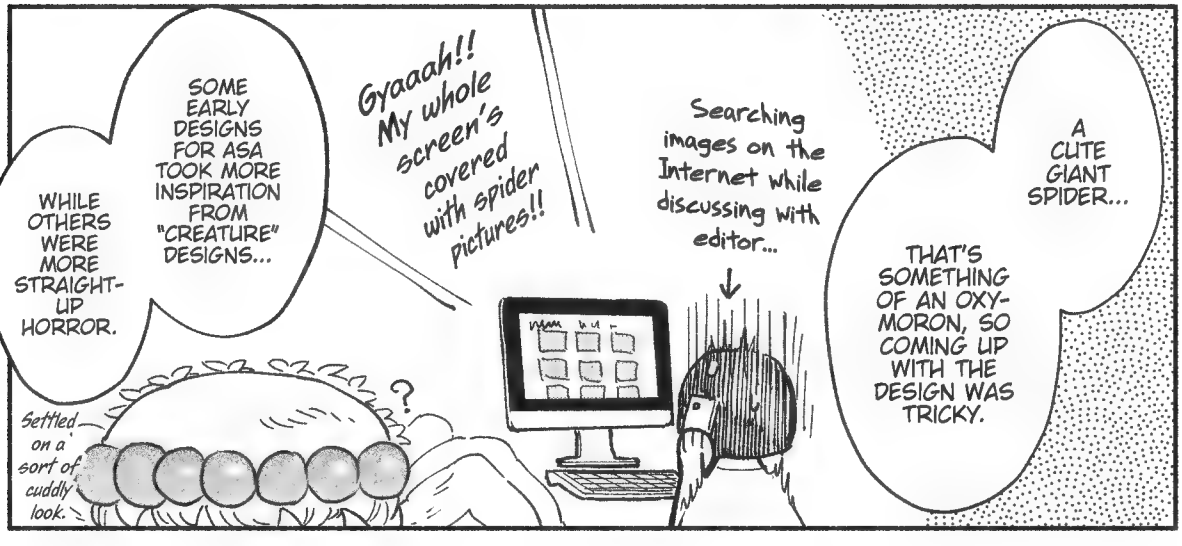
KLOTTA
HUH?
AHA! THESE LOOK LIKE THEY'LL DO NICELY.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO NAIL A FEW TOGETHER.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
CHOK
DO YOU SEE THAT UP THERE? YOU CAN TAKE THAT AND--

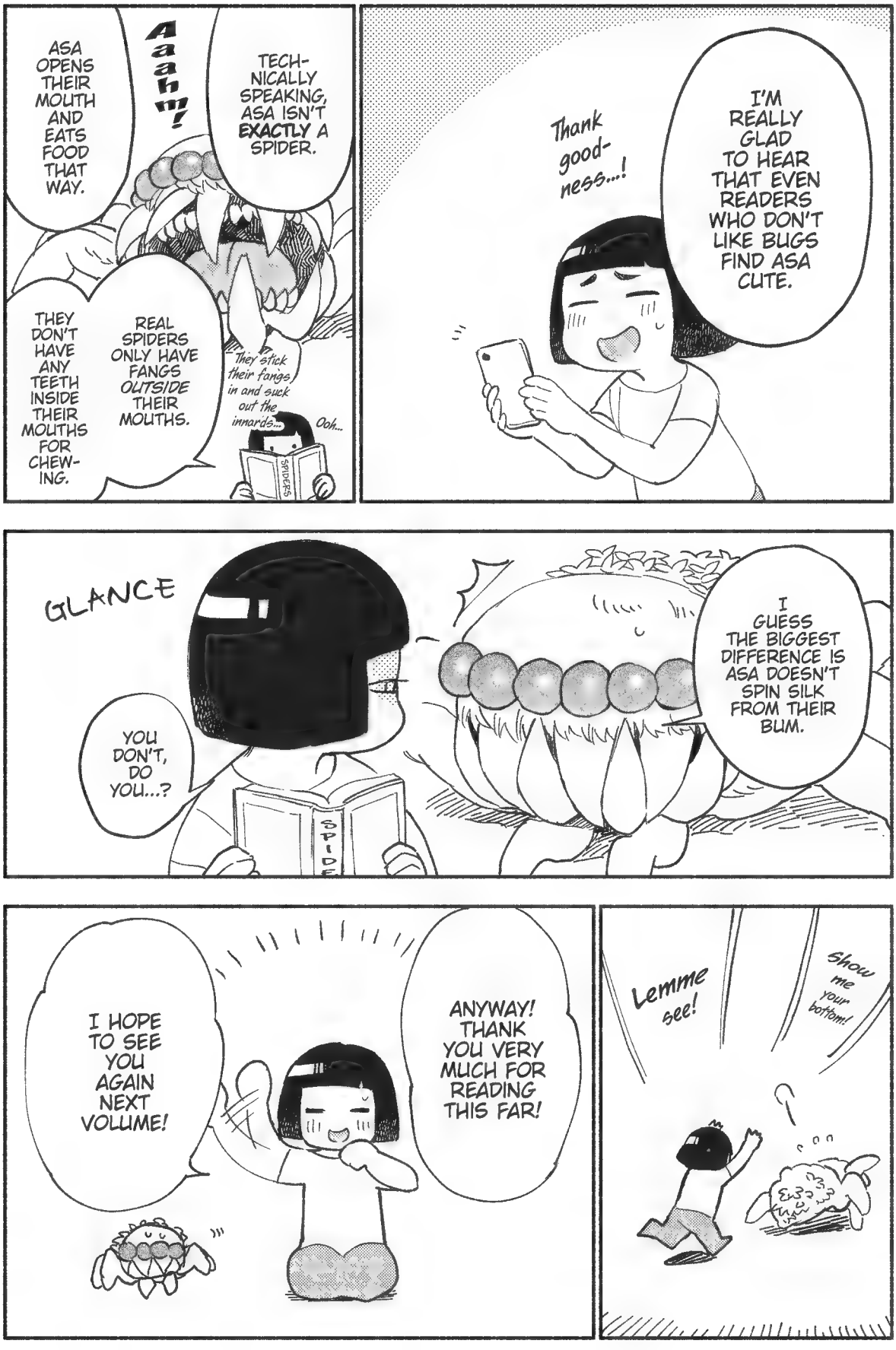
Giant Spider & Me: A Post-Apocalyptic Tale 1
END

Afterword


THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP VOLUME 1 OF GIANT SPIDER & ME!
PLASH
PLISH
I'M KIKORI MORINO!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, AND GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.


Akaneya Yakumo
IT'S QUITE A DEPARTURE FROM MY EARLIER WORK, SO I IMAGINE SOME OF YOU WERE SURPRISED.
FOR THIS STORY, I DECIDED TO WRITE ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL AND A GIANT SPIDER-LIKE CREATURE JUST LIVING TOGETHER AND EATING TASTY FOOD.


WHILE OTHERS WERE MORE STRAIGHT-UP HORROR.
SOME EARLY DESIGNS FOR ASA TOOK MORE INSPIRATION FROM "CREATURE" DESIGNS...
Settled on a sort of cuddly look.
?
Gyaaah!! My whole screen's covered with spider pictures!!
Searching images on the Internet while discussing with editor...
THAT'S SOMETHING OF AN OXY-MORON, SO COMING UP WITH THE DESIGN WAS TRICKY.
A CUTE GIANT SPIDER...


ASA OPENS THEIR MOUTH AND EATS FOOD THAT WAY.
Aaahm!
TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, ASA ISN'T EXACTLY A SPIDER.
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY TEETH INSIDE THEIR MOUTHS FOR CHEWING.
REAL SPIDERS ONLY HAVE FANGS OUTSIDE THEIR MOUTHS.
They stick their fangs in and suck out the innards...
Ooh...
SPIDERS
Thank goodness...!
I'M REALLY GLAD TO HEAR THAT EVEN READERS WHO DON'T LIKE BUGS FIND ASA CUTE.
GLANCE
YOU DON'T, DO YOU...?
I GUESS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IS ASA DOESN'T SPIN SILK FROM THEIR BUM.
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT VOLUME!
ANYWAY! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING THIS FAR!
Lemme see!
Show me your bottom!

SPECIAL THANKS

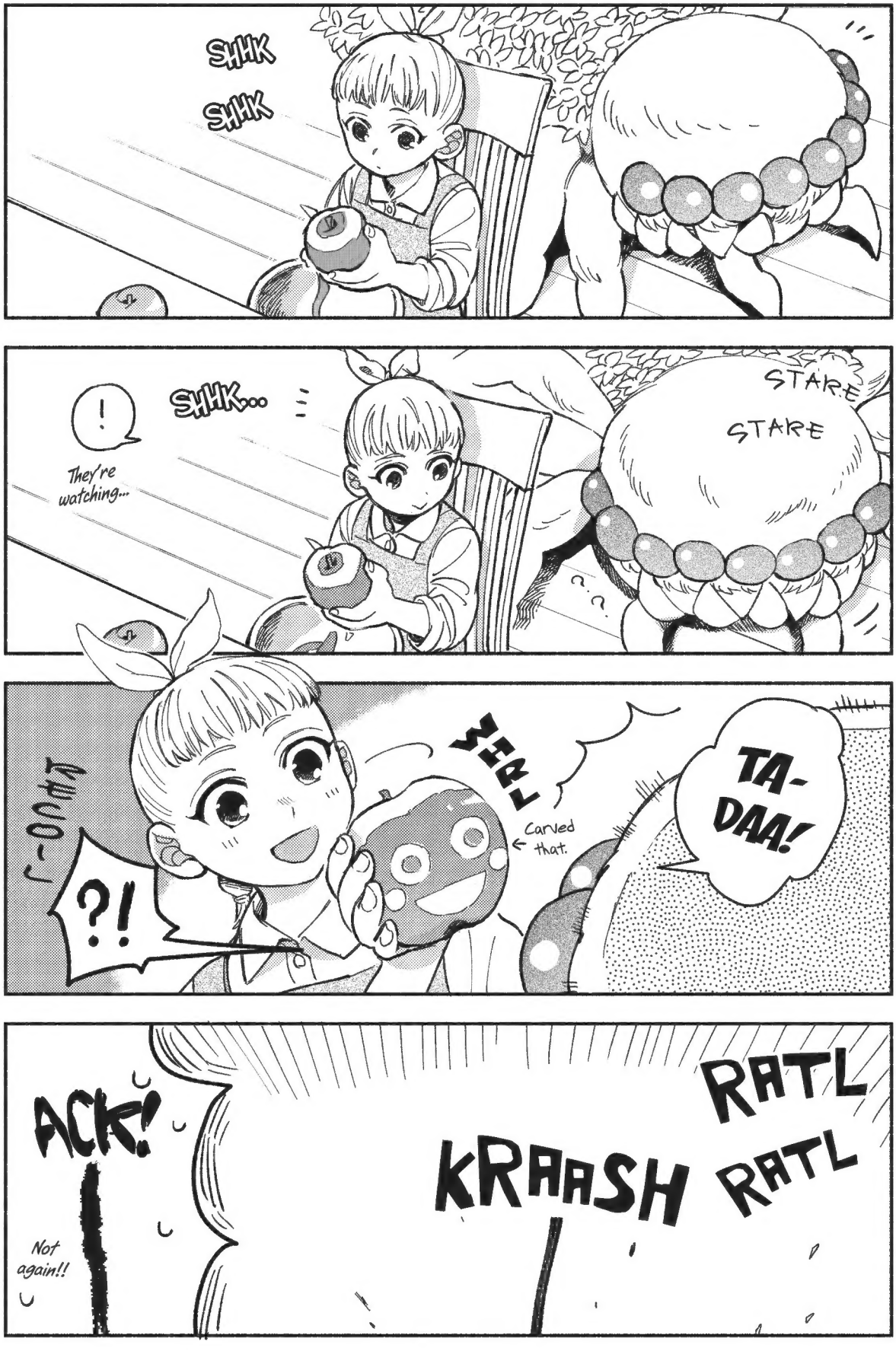
All my readers
My editor, Arafuku-sama
Yuki Amagiri-sama
rice-sama
My designer

An uninvited guest arrives...

As she gets used to having Asa around, Nagi begins to think seriously about how the two of them can coexist. But suddenly an unwelcome guest arrives and shoves a hunting rifle in Nagi's face. What will happen to the girl and the spider?! (And the old guy, too?)

A gentle story about quiet days and two different species coming together through food and friendship.

Volume 2
COMING SOON!


SHHK
SHHK
!
They're watching...
SHHK...
STARE
STARE
TA-DAA!
I carved that.
?!
ACK!
Not again!!
RATL
KRAASH
RATL

SNIFL
I'm sorry. I couldn't help myself. Your reactions are just too cute...

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GIANT SPIDER & ME: A Post-Apocalyptic Tale VOL. 1

story and art by **KIKORI MORINO**

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Ysabet Reinhardt MacFarlane

LETTERING AND RETOUCH
Jennifer Skarupa

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Danielle King
Brett Hallahan

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Jenn Grunigen

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
CK Russell

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Lissa Pattillo

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

OWARI NOCHI, ASANAGI KURASHI VOL. 1
© Kikori Morino 2016
Originally published in Japan in 2016 by MAG Garden Corporation, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged through TOHAN CORPORATION, Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945, extension 5442, or by e-mail at MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-626927-54-4

Printed in Canada

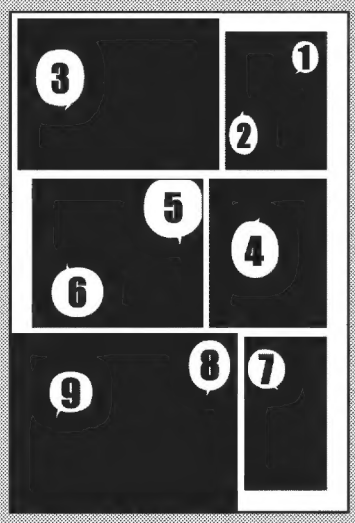
First Printing: February 2018

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: ***www.sevenseasentertainment.com***

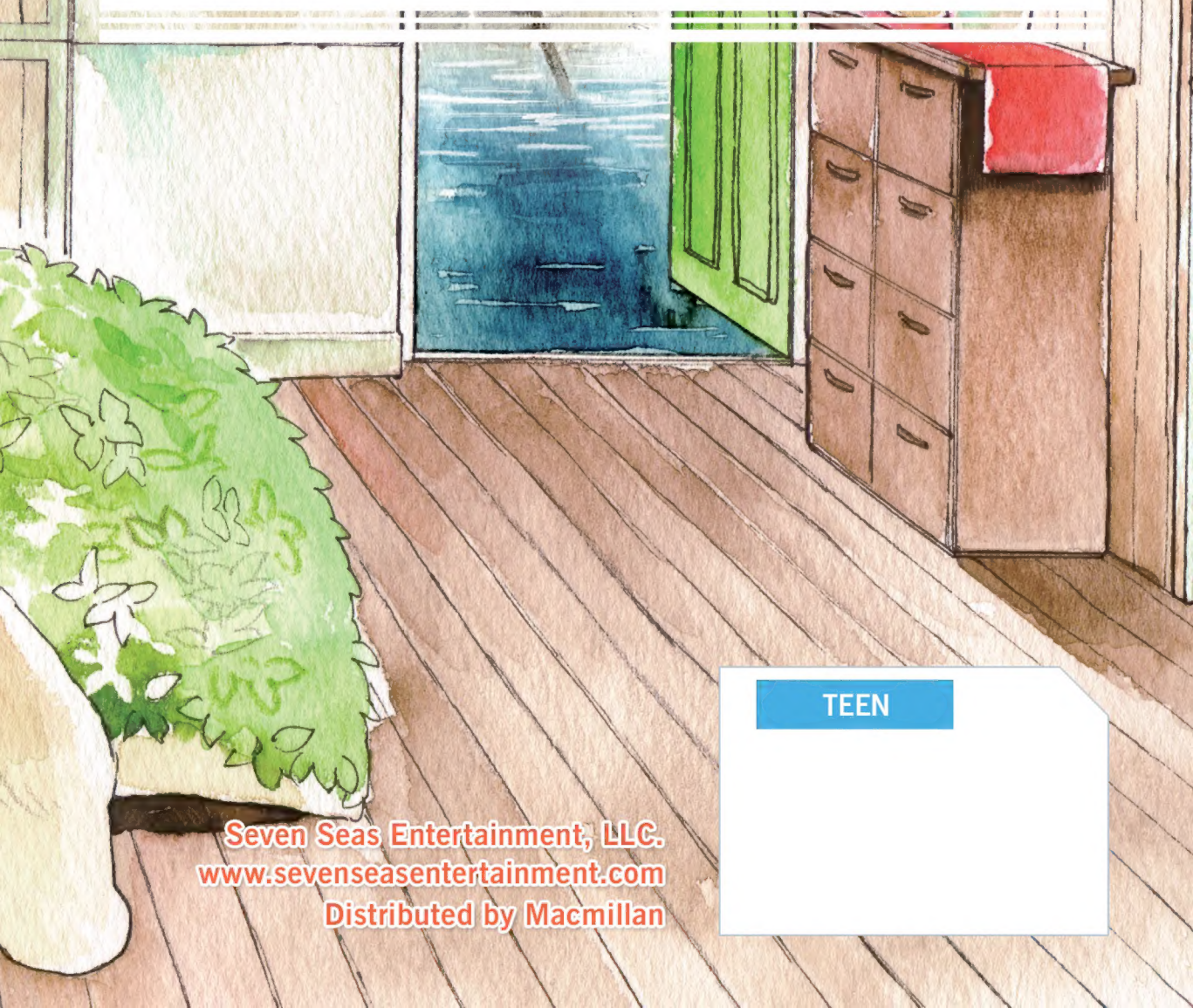
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



A WEB OF FRIENDSHIP

A young girl named Nagi and a giant spider make an unusual pair in this post-apocalyptic story, but living in the mountains is lonely, and they've managed to find each other. Join them in their strangely sweet domestic bliss as they spend their days sharing tea and throwing picnics, proving that love (and delicious food) can bring together even the most unlikely of friends.



TEEN

Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
www.sevenseasentertainment.com
Distributed by Macmillan